



PEACE AND PROCLAMATION

January 2008

A message from Pastor Pete

I find it amazing to watch people draw. Some people can, with the flick of their fingers, make the most amazing things spring off of a piece of paper. I, on the other hand, have the hands of a sledge-hammer. When I take the time to make something look realistic it ends up looking like a disaster. I end up erasing lines and trying to recreate them. It looks like a big smudge that doesn't resemble anything! The residue of the old, semi-erased lines goof up the whole thing!

That's why I used to love my Etch-A-Sketch. When I made something that looked quite dreadful the Etch-A-Sketch allowed me to quickly shake it away. I'd have a clean screen in front of me to start over...with no signs of what had been done before.

We often think that our lives resemble the smudged piece of paper. We think that what we have done in the past has made a mess of our present and future. Even as we enter a new year, we see the failures of the past following us through life. We assume that God must be pretty frustrated with us.

In God's eyes, however, we live our lives on an Etch-A-Sketch. When God forgives, God takes that Etch-A-Sketch and gives it such a big shake that no residue of the old failures remains. God forgives...and forgets. Completely. We can begin anew in God's kingdom.

It's a new year. Receive the cleansing that God offers God's people through Jesus' cross. Come before our Lord as a redeemed child of God. God's busy shaking away your past. The screen is clear. Time for a fresh start.



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A message from Maureen:

Incorporating Prayer into Your Life

This month we begin a four part series on prayer. The intent of this series is to give you some ideas about different ways to pray that may stretch your preconceived notions about what prayer should look like. Some ideas will work for you, others will not. Not every idea is meant for every person. They are intended to encourage you to shift from thinking about prayer as another activity on your “to do-list” to thinking about it as an integral part of everything that you do.

Physical Activity and Prayer: It can be very difficult to stay physically active during the month of January, especially if your preferred activities take place outdoors. It can also be difficult to motivate yourself to go to the gym or the rec. center when it’s dark or cold. BUT, there is a way to combine physical activity with prayer right inside your home and it doesn’t require any special equipment. The following list includes three of my favorite ways to combining prayer with exercise.

One way to combine physical activity and prayer in your home is to take the Hindu religious practice of yoga and modify it for Christian purposes. I believe that we can emulate the stretching and exercise routines of yoga in a way that opens us up in prayer to God. Yoga quiets the mind and centers the thoughts of a person. This is a wonderful way to focus on God and all that God has done for us. In the quieting of the mind it also allows us to spend time listening to what God has to say to us. Too often we think we have to supply all the talk and never take the time to listen. I frequently use a DVD called *Stretch and Pray* that is published by Augsburg Fortress and leads me in a 20 minute stretching routine. The session ends with 10 minutes of prayer. I use this video two or three times a week. However, now that I have become a little more accomplished, I believe that I could do the routine to almost any quiet or soothing music. It’s also something that I have done in my dorm room at seminary and while on retreat.



A second way to combine physical activity and prayer is by taking walks. At the end of a busy work day I find it very helpful and relaxing to lift up to God my concerns and challenges as I take my 3 mile walk in the neighborhood. I find that the physical activity helps me to focus and gives my mind rest from distractions. Somehow walking and movement allows creative ideas to come to a place where I can recognize them. Both the lifting up of concerns and challenges as well as resting from distractions are forms of prayer.

Believe it or not, cleaning the house is also a time of prayer for me. When the “white noise” of the vacuum cleaner comes on everything else gets drowned out and I can talk and “listen” to God. I know people who pray when washing dishes or loading the dishwasher. I know others who pray while mowing the lawn or driving a long commute. Basically they pray when doing a task that does not require close attention.

Consider including prayer in some of your physical activities. You will be surprised to discover that when you take the time to talk to God, God talks back. Maureen

WORSHIP ASSISTANT INFORMATION

The Epiphany of Our Lord - January 6, 2008

Worship Asst.: Julie Porcher
Reader: Emily Porcher
Communion Asst's.: Al & Jan Begin
Hospitality: The Crenshaw, Enright, Hanley, & Helgeson Families
Set-up/Ushers: The Szuberski, Peterson, Johnson, & Rucker Families



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

1st Sunday after the Epiphany - January 13, 2008

Worship Asst.: Steve Szuberski
Reader: Jeff Klein
Communion Asst's.: Samantha Porcher & Becky Crenshaw
Hospitality: The Johnson, Keach, Klein, & Mickow Families
Set-up/Ushers: The Porcher, Morton, Reiman & Jeche Families

2nd Sunday after the Epiphany - January 20, 2008

Worship Asst.: Kay Klein
Reader: Julie Porcher
Communion Asst's.: Jeff & Tanya Reiman
Hospitality: The Mix, Olson, Porcher, & Pristash Families
Set-up/Ushers: The Brockway, Schreier, Wallace, & Austin Families

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany - January 27, 2008

Worship Asst.: John Caflisch
Reader: Kay Klein
Communion Asst's.: Cindy Woltman & Steve Szuberski
Hospitality: The Rhone, Schreier, Sorom, & Turnquist Families
Set-up/Ushers: The Klein, Helgeson, Turnquist, & Wendt Families

Last Sunday after the Epiphany - February 3, 2008

Worship Asst.: Eric Porcher
Reader: Tamara Rasmussen
Communion Asst's.: Jeff & Kay Klein
Hospitality: The Wallace, Wendy, Welsh, & Zeimer Families
Set-up/Ushers: The Caflisch, Zeimer, & Spafford Families

January Birthday's!

Don Yust 1/7
Jesse Welsh 1/10
Phillip Sorom 1/11
Wayne Bendickson 1/13
Julie Hanley 1/14
Katie Rucker 1/18
Melissa Keach 1/19
Laurie Mickow 1/19
Kaitlin Tangen 1/19
Tyler Brockway 1/22
Colin Reiman 1/28
Brynn Hanley 1/27
Paige Wendt 1/29
Hollywood Hermanson 1/30
Natasha Johnson 1/30
David Turnquist 1/30



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@peaceeyota.org

~January Readings~

January 6 - Mary & Joseph Flee to Egypt

Isaiah 63:7-9

Hebrews 2:10-18

Matthew 2:13-23

January 13 - Jesus' Baptism

Isaiah 42:1-9

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

January 20 - Temptation of Jesus

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Romans 5:12-19

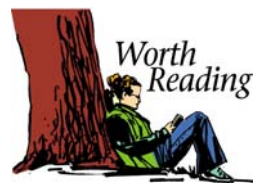
Matthew 4:1-11

January 27 - Jesus' Ministry Begins

Isaiah 9:1-4

I Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23



Church News!

A Disney Cruise??

Everyone at Peace is invited on a grand adventure! Plans are underway for a week long Disney Cruise on October 11-18, 2008 (yes, MEA week of 2008!). Prince of Peace in Burnsville is inviting anyone from Eyota to come and join in this week long adventure. This is the advantage of being a Mission Church! Plans are being made this far in advance so that families can financially plan for the cruise (costing in the neighborhood of \$1000-\$1500 per adult (kids cheaper), depending on lodging). Full details can be found at <http://www.travelsbydesign.com/famfest.htm>. It will be a great time for family and faith building.

Proposed Change to Constitution

At the annual celebration of ministry on February 3rd Peace will have the opportunity to revise a portion of the congregational constitution. Currently the constitution reads:

C10.04. A simple majority of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.

The proposed change reads:

C10.04 10% of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.

This change would bring Peace in line with the most ELCA congregations as it sets a realistic goal for attendance.

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 and hear the sermon for that week!

Hand Bell Choir?

Peace is being offered a set of hand bells, but before accepting the offer we want to see if there is interest in getting a hand bell choir together. If you have experience (or would like to gain experience) in hand bells, please talk to Pastor Pete.

Noisy Collection

It's time to start using that pile of coins in your drawer! On the first Sunday of each month the kids of Peace will collect the 'Noisy Offering,' a collection of change (making the proper rattling sounds in the bottom of cans!). The coins collected on **January 6th** will go to buy a pig through the ELCA World Hunger Global Barnyard.

The Bishop is Coming!

Peace is honored to welcome Bishop Harold 'Huck' Usgaard to worship on **January 6th**. Let's give him a rousing Peace welcome!

Pastor's Conference

Pastor Pete and Intern Maureen will be at a National Leadership Conference from **January 19th-22nd**.

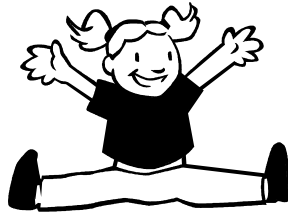
Ice Fishing Weekend

Peace's annual Ice Fishing Weekend at Pastor Pete's cabin near Alexandria will be on **January 25th-27th**. There is no school that Friday which will give us an extra day to fish! If you don't have ice fishing gear don't fret! We'll have plenty available. Please let Pastor Pete know if you are planning to go so food can be arranged.

Annual Celebration of Ministry

During worship (at 9:15) on **February 3rd** Peace will take some time both to celebrate what God has been doing at Peace as well as to look at the directions God calls us to. God calls us to worship...so why not celebrate, elect & install leaders, and look ahead to ministry while we praise God! This celebration will fulfill the constitutional requirements for an annual meeting!

Christian Education Opportunities



Wednesdays

5:45 - 6:45 p.m. Pre-School - 6th Grades @ the Catholic Church

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. 7th & 8th Grade @ Arbor Gardens

Sundays

10:30 - 11:15 a.m. All ages

Eyota Elementary School Gym

Please call church office 545-2135 or Su Spafford 545-2954 for more information.

Mark your calendars now for:

Sunday, January 6th, 13th 20th, 27th

Worship @ 9:15 AM @ DE Elementary

Sunday School 10:30-11:15 AM

Wednesday, January 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th

Weekday school

5:45-6:45 PM Grades 1-6

6:00-8:00 PM Grades 7-8

6:00-8:00 PM

Our Council Leaders!

Council President: Chuck Johnson

Vice-President: Cliff Schreier

Council Secretary: Su Spafford

Peace Teams and Leaders

Education: Su Spafford

Property: Jeff Klein

Finance: Chuck Johnson

Worship: Cliff Schreier

Outreach: Carrie Rhone

Spirituality: Brenda Szuberski

Peace Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
11/12/2007
6:30 PM

Devotions: Acts 8:26-40.

Topic	Discussion	Action
Call meeting to order: Chuck Johnson		
Secretary's Report: Su Spafford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes 9/10/07 and 10/8/07 	Minutes approved as written.
Treasurer's Report: Chuck Johnson	Report read through by Chuck. We went down some in October.	Report approved as written.
Team Reports:		
Education Team: Su Spafford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First communion – 5 students Christmas Program – 12/16/07 Weekday school – average 22/week Sunday school – average 20/week Commitment Sunday – 4 VBS budget update – not all money is in Budget for 2008 – 13% decrease overall Community Choir – 7 PM practices Our Saviour's Lutheran 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Su was absent. Great notes!
Finance Team: Chuck Johnson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates – Good Earth Village Personnel Policy update New finance team members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We sent \$250 to Good Earth Village on an emergency funding request. Chuck will send an e-mail (really?) to ask for input for the personnel policy. Jeff Reiman expressed interest in being in on the finance team.
Outreach: Carrie Rhone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IHN Update - December Bell ringing Daycare while adults shop Carrie is working on renovations to the web site yet this year. Carrie is looking at a portable banner for the entrance to Peace Lutheran. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have IHN again in December (12/9-12/16). Not sure where it will be this month – Carrie will send an e-mail and make an announcement in church. Bell-ringing sign up sheet sent around. December 1st is the date. Daycare can not be done in the church office (same day as the bell-ringing). Need to find a location for this. Catholic church a possibility?
Property Team: Jeff Klein	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set Up Team – duties list Church office basement Insurance coverage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The duty list for setup is in place, need to make sure they all see it and review the list. Church basement is fairly dry now. December 4th and 5th there will be an 'inside drain tile' system installed. Usability date is still TBD. Negotiations on reimbursement to Peace for labor and materials will be worked. Insurance check will be forthcoming soon.

Spirituality: Brenda Szuberski	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Bible Study • Spirituality Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brenda was absent. • Prayer retreat was a big success (5 attended). Led by Pastor Pete. • Special thanks for People of Hope and to Pastor Pete for the grounds and the leadership. • Small groups – information gathered was good. More coming after the 1st of the year. • Thrivent has 4 baskets to hand out to people in the community. We will be getting these to pass out soon.
Worship Team: Cliff Schreier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursery Update • Troop care packages • PC software update • Microphone stand for lector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to get the information on training the volunteers. 4-5 have volunteered. • Have a lot of things to be sent to the troops. Packing the boxes Wednesday. • Can get 3 licenses for Publisher, Power-Point, Word, and Excel for right at \$200 for the church. This will be used to populate the IBM donated PCs! • Will be going to Wellhaven for the lector microphone holder. • Carol is going to look at the Powerpoint formatter for songs so they are more readable.
Pastor Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastoral updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership – no change. • Baptism – Jon Finstad. Funeral for Jon was 11/6. • Vacation on 10/18. One left (around Christmas) • 2 families in the new member classes. Both Olsons.
Intern Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7th/8th bellringing on 12/5 at Shopko.
OLD BUSINESS		
NCD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update.

New Business		
	Commitment Sunday	4 people participating
Budget	Chuck took the council through the 2008 budget.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final draft will be available next month.
Next Council Meeting	December 10th – 6:30 pm	