



PEACE AND PROCLAMATION

January 2009

A message from Pastor Pete

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, this is an exciting time for Peace! Peace may be moving forward towards a building process! A building process is stressful for any congregation, so before we enter into one our national church (ELCA) wants to make sure that Peace is healthy and ready to take that step of faith.

The first part of the process will be for Peace to develop a Ministry Plan. The Ministry Plan will lay out our sense of the calling that God has for us as a congregation. What does God call us to do here at Peace? What should we do to reach out with the Good News of Jesus? How do we help people grow in their relationship with Jesus? How can we not only bring new people to hear about Jesus - how can we integrate them into the life and ministry of Peace? The Ministry Plan gets at the heart of who we are as a congregation! I think it will be very helpful for us to bring some focus to our ministry here in Eyota. We can't be all things to all people. We need to discern what gifts God has given us and we need to find ways of utilizing them to do God's work here. This plan will take the input of the entire congregation! This issue is so important to our future that the church council would like to bring in an outside consultant to help in developing this Ministry Plan. This will probably happen in the winter and spring of 2009 to give plenty of time to do an excellent job.

Once we have a good sense for who we are and what God calls us to do, the next step will be to look at our finances. The task will be to come up with a three year plan to self-sufficiency. We will come up with a plan and process where we can meet some goals at year one and year two before becoming self-sufficient in year three. This is a second crucial step for Peace. It's not just a hoop to jump through! Our long-term future is at stake here. As people are excited about Peace and our Ministry Plan, the finances will follow right along behind it. If we simply obsess about money we will face serious challenges!

(Continued on next page)

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PEACE AND PROCLAMATION

With the three year financial plan in place, the next step will be to have the first annual fund drive. Again, given the importance of this for the future ministry of Peace, the church council is considering bringing in an outside consultant to help with this process. This would probably take place in the early fall of 2009. The results of this pledge drive will determine whether we're able to move towards a building process. If we meet the first year goal set forth in our finance plan we would be approved to move forward with the building process.

Our task is to focus on God's mission here in Eyota. As we do that, a building will come. The process for it is in place. If we focus on a building instead of on God's mission, we will struggle to build. We are a people of faith. God is good - and God is leading us forward. God has provided for us for the past 10 years. God will continue to guide us as we move into this exciting phase of ministry. 2009 will be a major year for Peace. I pray that God will help us be up to the task!

I speak for the whole Peace staff in saying THANK YOU for your generous Christmas gifts! Peace is a wonderful place to serve. Thank you for your partnership in God's work here.

A message from Amanda:

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:18-19

We have made it through another holiday season and ended another year. What a year it has been! New lives were begun for some, and for other lives drew to a close; careers were started by some, and others faced the loss of income; some soldiers were welcomed home to their families, and others were welcomed into their heavenly home. Whatever it was that happened in your life this year, the memory is probably very valuable to you right now. Whether the events of this year were happy, sad, or even if there was a little of both, the memories we make are important to us.

So, reading the beginning of this passage from Isaiah can be hard. "Forget the former things" God says through Isaiah, "do not dwell on the past." But how can we do that? The past holds memories of those who are no longer with us. The past holds our cherished memories of happy times with our children who are growing up too fast. We are in a very real way creatures of the past. The past is safe - we know it. Nothing is going to jump up and scare us in the past, we already know how things happened there. The future - that's a frightening landscape. Trouble could be lurking behind every bush, around every corner. We don't know what's going to happen there.

This call to forget the former things does come with a promise. God tells us, "I am doing a new thing." What is this new thing? "I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." God is already in the frightening landscape of our futures. He knows what's behind all the bushes, what's around each of the bends. And though he doesn't promise to keep all trouble and danger away from us, he does promise to be there with us - to make a way for us to get through all trouble and danger. Even though we may face many frightening and dangerous things this year, we will never face them alone.

So, let us loosen our hold on our memories just a little, so that we can enter into the coming year full of curiosity about the new thing God is doing! And let us always remember that God is making a way for us, and that he will keep us safely with him no matter what challenges we will face in this new year.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT INFORMATION

January 4, 2009

Worship Asst: Shannon Reuss
Reader: Tamara Rasmussen
Communion Asst's: Eric & Julie Porcher
Hospitality: Cindy Woltman & The Wick, Tangen, Reiman, and Keach Families
Set-up/Ushers: The Brockway, Schreier, Wallace, and Keach Families



January 11, 2009

Worship Asst: Tanya Reiman
Reader: Becky Crenshaw
Communion Asst's: Cindy Woltman & Steve Szuberski
Hospitality: Christine & Jamie Olson, & The Klein, Mickow, Porcher, and Mix Families
Set-up/Ushers: The Klein, Helgeson, Turnquist, and Wendt Families

January 18, 2009

Worship Asst: Julie Porcher
Reader: Chuck Johnson
Communion Asst's: Jamie Olson & Chris Austin
Hospitality: The Pristash, Rhone, Schreier, Sorom, and Turnquist Families
Set-up/Ushers: The Families

January 25, 2009

Worship Asst: Steve Szuberski
Reader: Myra Wick
Communion Asst's: David & Debbie Turnquist
Hospitality: The Wallace, Welsh, Wendt, Ziemer, and Begin Families
Set-up/Ushers: The Szuberski, Peterson, Johnson, and Rucker Families

January Birthdays!

Mia Olson 1/7

Miles Olson 1/7

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@peaceyota.org

~January Readings~

January 4

The Magi Come to Jesus
Matthew 2:1-12

January 11

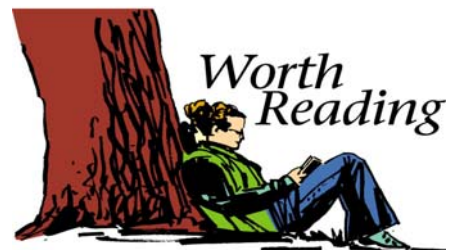
Jesus' Tells of his coming death
Mark 10:32-45

January 18

Blind Bartimaeus receives Sight
Mark 10:46-52

January 25

Palm Sunday - Jesus enters
Jerusalem
Mark 11:1-11



Church News!

Peace Budget Update (year to date through 11/30/08)

Actual Offerings	\$ 74,967
Budgeted Offerings	\$ 95,085
Actual Mission Partner & Misc. Income	\$ 17,380
Actual Expenses	\$ 134,647
Budgeted Expenses	\$ 136,649
% of Self-Sufficiency (actual offerings vs actual expense)	56%

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.

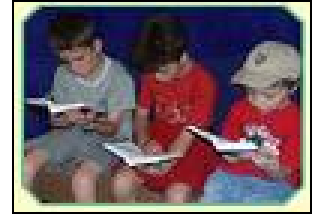
Did you know?



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.



Self-Image - Dating - Sex



These very important issues will be the topics for the middle school youth ministry during the month of January. Everyone in 6th-8th grades is encouraged to come (parents - help us out here)! On January 21st and 28th we strongly encourage parents to come with your youth. We will take the time when the youth play bingo with the residents of Arbor Gardens

(6:30-7:00) to give parents some tools to help them talk to their kids about sex. The parents then will join with their child during the time of discussion from 7:00-8:00. Everyone is invited for supper at 6:00.



Pastor Pete's Phone Number

When not in the office, the best way to contact Pastor Pete is on his cell phone, 696-3309.

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

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.



Welcome-To-Peace Small Group



In **March** Peace will once again gather people together who would like to learn more about Peace and who might be interested in joining Peace as members. If you are interested (or know someone who is), please talk to Pastor Pete!

Farewell Amanda!



Can you believe that Intern Amanda's time with Peace will end on Sunday, **February 1st!** To show our appreciation, we are going to have a pot-luck lunch in her honor on **Sunday, January 18th** following Sunday School. Please plan to come and thank her for her time at Peace!

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, January 6th at the church office.**

M. I. A.

Mom' s

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.



Go Fish!



If you like to ice fish - we have the perfect weekend for you! On the weekend of January 23rd -25th a group from Peace will trek up to the Alexandria area to sit out on the ice, swap stories, grill some burgers on the ice, and catch some fish! At night we'll warm up in Pastor Pete's cabin. This has become an annual event, and everyone is invited! There is no school on that Friday or Monday, so we'll head up either on Thursday night first thing Friday morning (depending on people' schedules). If you can come at any point in the weekend, feel free to join in the fun. We share the expenses of the meals...and that's the only cost involved. If you have ice fishing gear, please bring it along. If not, we'll take care of you. And this year...there's a power auger for us to use (woohoo!). Please RSVP to Pastor Pete so he can make plans for sleeping arrangements.



Annual Reports

Beginning on January 11th and continuing through January 25th, the church council members will take a *few* minutes during the announcements to give the annual updates for each team (and to be open to questions and comments). The schedule will be:

Jan. 11: Worship Team and Outreach Team

Jan. 18: Finance Team (including budget for 2009) and Education Team

Jan. 25: Spirituality Team and Property Team

Annual Celebration of Ministry

During worship (at 9:15) on February 1st 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!

At the annual celebration of ministry on February 1st 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. This amendment passed at the last congregational meeting, and to take effect it needs to pass at this meeting by a 2/3 majority.

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,

- 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

Christian Education Opportunities

Sundays—10:30—11:15 a.m. D-E Elementary Gym/Pre-school—8th grade

Wednesday—5:45—6:45 p.m. Peace Lutheran Church Office/Pre-school—6th grade

Wednesday—6:00—8:00 p.m. Arbor Gardens 7th & 8th grade

Peace Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

12/09//08

6:30 PM

Devotions: Acts 20:7-12

Topic	Discussion	Action																				
Call meeting to order: Cliff Schreier																						
Secretary's Report: Su Spafford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve Minutes 11/08 	Minutes approved as written. Wayne motioned, Pastor Pete seconded.																				
Treasurer's Report: Jeff Reiman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates Offering balance 	No money transferred from money market acct. We are right on track with last years numbers. Wayne motioned to accept, Jeff seconded.																				
Team Reports:																						
Education Team: Su Spafford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates Christmas Program 	Christmas program is coming along. Setup on Saturday is planned. Looking for ideas for Sunday School service project for Sunday, Dec. 21 st . Possibly Arbor Gardens																				
Finance Team: Jeff Reiman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates 2009 Budget 	<table> <tr><td>INH</td><td>750</td></tr> <tr><td>Channel One</td><td>600</td></tr> <tr><td>Good Earth</td><td>250</td></tr> <tr><td>Salvation Army</td><td>100</td></tr> <tr><td>Good Samaritan (Dental Clinic)</td><td>300</td></tr> <tr><td>Lutheran Campus (Minnesota)</td><td>300</td></tr> <tr><td>Heifer Project</td><td>300</td></tr> <tr><td>Ronald McDonald House</td><td>250</td></tr> <tr><td>Women Shelter</td><td>250</td></tr> <tr><td>Lutheran Disaster</td><td>250</td></tr> </table> <p>The last 3 items in the list may be adjusted once final offerings are in.</p>	INH	750	Channel One	600	Good Earth	250	Salvation Army	100	Good Samaritan (Dental Clinic)	300	Lutheran Campus (Minnesota)	300	Heifer Project	300	Ronald McDonald House	250	Women Shelter	250	Lutheran Disaster	250
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Lutheran Disaster	250																					
Outreach: Carrie Rhone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates 2009 Budget IHN 	100 cards were sent out 12/1 for Holiday Cards for Heroes program. The youth colored and signed all 100 during sermon coloring time. IHN in Plainview – Peace has 4 signups																				
Property Team: Wayne Merhkens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates 2009 Budget Blinds for office Building Planning Team 																					
Spirituality: Brenda Szuberski	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates 2009 Budget Small Groups 																					
Worship Team: Cliff Schreier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates 2009 Budget Hospitality Christmas Eve 	Myra ordered Poinsettias for Sunday. 1000 check from IBM for speaker system and projector for Office not spent yet. Need to go shopping for items. Check out TigerDirect.com Sandra Welsch is coordinating the cookie table. ½ hour service and ½ hr Christmas program for this Sunday.																				

<p>Pastoral updates</p> <p>Set 2009 Calendar – where is it?</p>	<p>232 baptized and 144 confirmed</p> <p>Confirmation Sunday took place 11/23/08 (4 youth confirmed)</p> <p>Annual reports are due by end of the month. We need to split the reports up over a few Sundays. 1/11 Worship & Outreach, 1/18 Finance & Education, 1/25 Property & Spirituality</p> <p>New Members will officially join in January. Another for new members will start in February.</p> <p>Ice Fishing weekend is January 25th</p> <p>Calendar will be addressed at January meeting.</p>
<p>Intern update</p>	<p>Helped with a funeral in Chatfield. Getting Sunday school set for the spring. Last Sunday is February 1st. Looking for volunteers to move Amanda.</p>
<p>Picture Directory</p>	<p>Linda will work on in early January. Software has been installed already.</p>

NEW BUSINESS		
	<p>Readiness to Build</p> <p>Future Intern</p> <p>Proposed Budget</p>	<p>Readiness to Build – We need a ministry plan and a stewardship plan timeline. Once we have a ministry plan and stewardship plan we need to get it approved by the Synod. We need to start with the ministry plan to know where we are going and getting people involved. Possibly we will get a consultant for Stewardship and Ministry plan. If we want the Stewardship to happen in September, then we need to start early in the year to work on the Ministry plan for Spring. The Ministry plan needs a huge focus. The consultant would allow people to realize what we have as gifts and then can identify how to utilize those things.</p> <p>Pastor Pete will get more information and let us know more in January.</p> <p>Still working on funding for the intern. We may have a year gap, as we already have funding figured out for 2010.</p> <p>We need a general offering of 125,000 for next year. Our money market will not be available for 2010. We need to become self sufficient in 2009. Cliff motioned to approve the 2009 proposed budget. Wayne seconded.</p>
<p>Adjourn</p>		<p>Motion to adjourn: Cliff and Pastor Pete</p>
<p>Next Council Meeting</p>	<p>1/12/2009</p>	<p>Next Council meeting January 8th</p>