



PEACE AND PROCLAMATION

March 2009

A message from Pastor Pete

March 8th, 2009. A critical date in the history of Peace Lutheran Church.

On March 8th Peace will begin discerning a three year plan for ministry. Without a plan for ministry Peace will struggle in the upcoming years. We may continue to do ministry, but we'll have no focus for our gifts and energies. We won't be efficient or effective. Without an effective plan for ministry that energizes people, Peace probably won't build our own building anytime soon. With a strong sense of God's call to us, Peace will accomplish amazing things! With an effective ministry plan in place, people at Peace will feel fulfilled in doing God's work. A strong ministry plan is one essential step towards a potential building program.

Obviously I'm talking about more than some mere document here. We could find a few brilliant minds to sit behind closed doors and write a plan for ministry that might sound impressive. That would miss the point completely. This is OUR ministry plan. To be effective, ALL the people of Peace need to be a part of it. No matter whether you feel 'strong in the faith' or not, God is using you to move Peace forward in mission and ministry. God has already given Peace Lutheran Church ALL of the gifts that we need to do ministry! You are one of those gifts.

Peace is blessed to have Luther Snow be our facilitator for this process. He is nationally recognized as one of the premier consultants for the Asset Mapping process. Through Mr. Snow, God will work to lead Peace into God's future.

We need you! It is important that you come on Sunday, March 8th to take part in this process. Mr. Snow will lead some discussion and thought during the Sunday School time. Following a lunch (which will be provided), Mr. Snow will facilitate the discussion from noon to 5:30.

Our time on March 8th is the first step in Asset Mapping / Ministry Planning process. We will have work to do throughout the spring, culminating in one final time with Mr. Snow in late April/ Early May (time TBA). Please bring your calendars on March 8th so we can get that date set! I look forward to seeing you there.

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Here is more information about Luther Snow and the Asset Mapping process:

Retreat: *The Power of Asset Mapping*

When we look at the "half-full cup," we recognize our assets and the abundance of God's gifts. But that's just the start. We soon discover that our own gifts are made more valuable by connecting them to the gifts of others. Together we discover unexpected opportunities, and a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts.

Program: From the practical to the powerful

JOIN US for a exciting retreat: *The Power of Asset Mapping*. Together we will:

- ◆ Learn how to lead our congregations and our communities to take action together -- right away!
- ◆ Experience the powerful "open-sum" dynamics of faith and community, and recognize why we come together as congregations in the first place;
- ◆ Locate Asset Mapping in a theology of abundance, affinity, and release, and lift up that theology in word, worship, and prayer;
- ◆ Practice simple tools and techniques to reverse the negative cycles of need and conflict in our congregations and replace them with the positive "snowball effect" of assets and opportunity.

Apply these lessons to diverse aspects of congregational and community life, from rural development to youth development, from stewardship to evangelism, from social justice to bricks-and-mortar.

Retreat Facilitator: Experienced in Community, Drawing on Faith

Luther K. Snow is a developer, facilitator, trainer, speaker and writer who specializes in asset-based development. He is the author of the bestselling book, *The Power of Asset Mapping: How Your Congregation Can Act on Its Gifts*, published by the Alban Institute.

Snow served as director of the Congregational Asset Mapping Project for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and has had 25 years' experience in both rural communities and inner-city neighborhoods, working with every aspect of faith community. Snow's clients include individual congregations, judicatories, national denominations, grassroots community groups and ecumenical and issue coalitions. His facilitations include "quick and simple" introductions, asset-based planning sessions for organizations, and "train-the-trainer" sessions for leaders.

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Snow is also experienced in community and economic development, and he draws lessons from this experience for his work with congregations and faith communities. Snow worked for many years in inner-city Chicago, leading grassroots community development efforts and building citywide coalitions. For over a decade, Snow has lived in rural Iowa and has been a leader of the national shift in rural development from a "need focus" to an "asset focus." Snow's publication, *The Organization of Hope: A Workbook for Rural Asset-Based Community Development*, shares stories and lessons from successful asset-building in small towns and rural areas. His book, *Community Transformation: Turning Threats into Opportunities*, is a nuts-and-bolts guide to large-scale economic development efforts led by grassroots urban and rural organizations.

Snow graduated with honors from Harvard College and has an MBA from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business. He is married, has two children and lives in Decorah, Iowa.

Program: Be prepared to act, think, and have fun

Snow's style is interactive and participant-based and the content is positive and uplifting. Luther believes in "using what we've got, to get what we want," and knows how to empower communities and leaders to do exactly that.

Snow draws on a mix of experiential learning, stories of success and failure, analytical discussion, group process and personal spirit to communicate a larger message of hope and action. As a participant, you will be engaged throughout the retreat and leave ready to take action!

WORSHIP ASSISTANT INFORMATION

March 1, 2009

Worship Asst: Tanya Reiman
Reader: Kay Klein
Communion Asst's: John & Lynn Caflisch
Hospitality: The Schreier, Sorom, Turnquist, Wallace, & Welsh Families
Set-up/Ushers: The Szuberski, Peterson, & Rucker Families



March 8, 2009

Worship Asst: Julie Porcher
Reader: Heather Ohl
Communion Asst's: Kevin & Ramona Back
Hospitality: The Wendt, Ziemer, Begin, Brockway, & Caflisch Families
Set-up/Ushers: The Porcher, Morton, & Reiman Families

March 15, 2009

Worship Asst: Steve Szuberski
Reader: Tanya Reiman
Communion Asst's: Jeff & Kay Klein
Hospitality: Curt & Kathy Olson & The Crenshaw, Enright, Hanley, & Helgeson Families
Set-up/Ushers: The Brockway, Schreier, Wallace & Austin Families

March 22, 2009

Worship Asst: Kay Klein
Reader: Ramona Back
Communion Asst's: Eric & Julie Porcher
Hospitality: The Sass, Wick, Tangen, Reiman, & Keach Families
Set-up/Ushers: The Klein, Helgeson, Turnquist, & Wendt Families

March 29, 2009

Worship Asst: John Caflisch
Reader: Eric Porcher
Communion Asst's: Cindy Woltman & Steve Szuberski
Hospitality: Cindy Woltman & The Klein, Mickow, Mix, & Christine & Jamie Olson Families
Set-up/Ushers: The Caflisch, Ziemer, & Spafford Families

March Birthdays!

Zach Klein 3/3
Cliff Schreier 3/3
Wayne Mehrkins 3/4
Seth Berning 3/6
Joe Couch 3/14
Steve Rucker 3/14
Su Spafford 3/17
Julie Nord 3/19
Tanya Reiman 3/21
Tina Sass 3/21
Paul Wendt 3/21
Brandon Rhone 3/22
Ken Morton 3/23
Carter Begin 3/25
Chris Austin 3/26
Brenda Szuberski 3/31



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

~March Readings~

March 1

Jesus Anointed at Bethany
Mark 14:1-11

March 8

The Last Supper
Mark 14:12-31

March 15

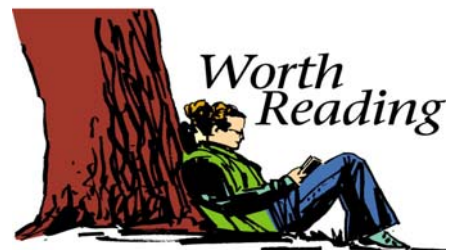
Jesus Arrested at Gethsemane
Mark 14:32-52

March 22

Jesus before the Temple Leaders
Mark 14:53-72

March 29

Jesus before Pilate
Mark 15:1-20



Church News!



Congratulations to Samantha Porcher for being crowned the 2009 Snoball Queen!

In January Peace welcomed two new families into the Peace family:

Kevin & Ramona Back have two daughters, Emily is in her 2nd year at UW La-Crosse and Amanda is a junior at DE high school. Kevin works for IBM Corp. as a Top Inputs Planner and Ramona works for Rochester Public Schools at Gage Elementary as a Grade 3 teacher.



Brian and Emily Halvorson have five children: Bradley is 9, BJ is 7, Alissa is 5, and Kristen is 16 months. Brian is self employed - he has B&C Plumbing and Heating. Emily is a nurse at St. Mary's Hospital, Neonatal ICU.

Welcome to Peace!

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 .

Welcome to Peace Small Group:

Those interested in finding out more about Peace (or becoming members at Peace) will gather during the Sunday School time on March 1, 8, 22, and 29

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, March 3rd at the church office.**

M. I. A.

Mom' s

Peace Scrappers

If you like to scrapbook (or want to learn more), this group is for you! Contact person - Becky Crenshaw-545-1290. They normally meet in the church office on the 2nd Saturday each month, but due to Valentine's Day they will meet on **Saturday, March 14 from 6-10 PM.**



"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

A group for support and weight-loss. Every Thursday at 6 p.m. 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.



Wednesday Lenten Worship

On Wednesdays from March 4 through April 1 our whole mid-week ministry will move to the elementary school. For the time of worship and conversation we will be looking at 1 Corinthians, chapters 12-13, to discuss how we are the body of Christ. Our junior high ministry will take part in the worship and break off separately for their conversation. The people of St. Paul UCC will join with us in these services. The schedule will be:

5:45 pm Supper for all

5:45-6:45 pm Elementary Youth Ministry

6:15-6:45 pm Worship and Conversation

Special Lenten Services

Palm Sunday — March 29

The children will be singing as part of the service. Please have them at church no later than 9:00 am. **Songs: When A King Comes—Ho Ho Ho Hosanna—Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord**

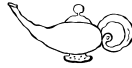
ELCA Sexuality Statement Updates

As you may have seen in the newspapers, the ELCA is in the midst of a multi-year conversation about sexuality. A proposed statement on sexuality has been prepared to be presented to the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly which will take place this summer. You can read the document at www.peaceeyota.org/2009Sexuality.pdf. In addition to this statement, the ELCA is wrestling with the issue of homosexuality. Specifically, the question about ordaining people in active, monogamous homosexual relationships is going to be considered at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. On this issue, the ELCA recognizes that people of faith do not agree. Some people hold the traditional view that homosexual practices are always wrong and clearly forbidden by Scripture. Others hold that the homosexual practices referred to in Scripture point to abusive homosexual relationships (which were common in the ancient world) and have little to do with the committed, monogamous relationships of today. The proposed statement to be voted on this summer tries to take a middle road, recognizing that a consensus is not possible. The proposed statement allows people to be bound by their own consciences. People will be allowed to disagree. Some churches may feel a desire to call a pastor in an active, monogamous homosexual relationship. Under this proposal, they would be free to do so. Other churches would not feel that this is appropriate, and they would not be bound to even consider someone in an active, monogamous homosexual relationship as their pastor. This would only become official ELCA policy if it's passed at the national assembly. What we have now is only a proposal. To read the entire document, go to www.peaceeyota.org/2009Recommendation.pdf.

Pastor Pete's Phone Number

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

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 545-2535
Ramona Back - 932-6880
Kari Wendt—545-2117



Christian Education Calendar - updates



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

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

- 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

The Noisy Collection

The Noisy Collection on Mar. 1st will go to the Salvation Army Dental Clinic in Rochester .

Vacation Bible School



It looks like VBS will be held the week of June 8-12. We are pleased to have Kathy Olson (545-1229) and Heather Ohl (545-0140) be Peace's coordinators. They will soon be looking for teachers and helpers. If you're interested in being a part of VBS this year, please talk to either Kathy or Heather.

Peace Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

1/08//09

6:30 PM

Devotions: Acts 21:27-36, 22:22-29

Topic	Discussion	Action
Call meeting to order: Cliff Schreier		
Secretary's Report: Su Spafford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve Minutes 12/08 	Motion by Jeff, seconded by Carrie
Treasurer's Report: Jeff Reiman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates Envelopes 	<p>2008 giving was 81% of budgeted amount. Motion by Wayne to approve treasurers report, 2nd by Brenda.</p> <p>Envelopes have been labeled and will be ready for distribution on 1/11/09.</p>
Team Reports:		
Education Team: Su Spafford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates Sunday School 	Christian Ed meeting Sunday, January 11 at 7 pm to discuss a Christian Ed team.
Finance Team: Jeff Reiman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates Benevolence fund Final Schedule of offerings – Noisy Sunday Audit Committee 	<p>Benevolence fund is final. Noisy Sunday schedule will be set on a month to month basis by the church council, February collection will go to heating assistance and March will go to the Good Samaritan Dental Clinic.</p> <p>The Audit Committee will conduct the annual audit in January.</p> <p>Jeff will ask for more volunteers to assist with counting after church.</p>
Outreach: Carrie Rhone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates 	IHN went well in December. The next time we host will be in Eyota in March. Brochure for visitors is almost done. A new vinyl sign is being done for the set up team.
Property Team: Wayne Merhkens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blinds for the office windows Chair for Linda's desk Building Planning Team 	<p>Blinds are here and will be dropped off. An ergonomic chair has been approved and will be purchased in January.</p> <p>A synopsis of the surveys has been put together and distributed to the Building Planning Team, the survey will shared with the congregation at the annual meeting.</p>
Spirituality: Brenda Szuberski	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates Small Groups 	Small groups continue to meet, this month will be scrapbooking.
Worship Team: Cliff Schreier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates Grant Money from IBM 	<p>Worship team meeting in January at Wicks house.</p> <p>A projector and lap top will be donated for the church basement.</p> <p>The worship Team report will during the church service 1/11/09</p>

Pastor Update	Pastoral updates Baptized/Confirmed #'s Annual Reports New Members	No changes in membership. New members will be recognized on Sundays as they are available. Stewardship Finance Plan is being talked about for fall. Ministry Plan, needs funding and talks are in process to schedule a time this could occur. Ice Fishing will be January 23 – 25 th . First Communion communication will be started with parents and children.
Intern Update	Intern update	Christmas tree set up for Christmas Program, Preached in Chatfield, Assisted with Christmas Eve Service, Teaching a sexuality unit to the med week youth, wrote the curriculum for Sunday School through spring,
OLD BUSINESS	Picture Directory	The picture directory is being worked on by Linda.

NEW BUSINESS		
	Administrative Assistant Review	Motion for a raise of 3% effective in March 2009 by Su, 2 nd by Jeff.
	2009 Calendars	All calendar items need to be sent to church administrative assistant.
	Annual Meeting	Quorum language will be added again this year
Adjourn		Motion to adjourn Su, 2 nd Wayne.
Next Council Meeting	February 5, 6:30 p.m.	