

PEACE PASSAGES

Volume 39, Number1, January 2020

Peace Lutheran Church
514 Freedom Drive – P.O. Box 333
Arlington, MN 55307-0333

Sunday School – 8:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship – 9:30 a.m.

Church Phone Number

507-964-2959

E-mail address

peacelutheran1982@gmail.com

Web Site

www.peacelutheranarlington.org

Rev. Dan Ritter

Vacancy Pastor

Sheila Henke

Administrative Secretary

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the people at Peace is to be disciples of Our Lord who grow in grace and use the Word and sacraments to obey His command to make disciples of all nations.

Dear friends and members of Peace,

Happy New Year! Last spring while being down in Florida for our grandson's graduation, my wife wanted to go to the Titanic exhibit in Orlando. As we paid the entrance fee we were given a replica ticket from the Titanic with the name of an actual passenger who traveled on the Titanic.

This experience added to the sense of the tragedy as we then walked through the exhibit. At the very end of the tour, there was a huge board with the names of all the passengers on the Titanic in four columns: First Class, Second Class, Steerage and Crew. But there was more on that board than just names. Right across the middle of the board was a big, heavy line. Above the line it said "Saved" and below the line it said "Lost". As we each looked at the name on their ticket and searched the list, we discovered whether or not we were saved or lost.

When God looks at our world, He doesn't divide us into first class or second class. He looks at who has been saved and who is lost. It is the Lord's passion to get as many names as possible above the line. He also looks to us to share that passion; to care about what He cares about.

As we are beginning the New Year before us we want to put our faith into action. As a healthy Christian congregation we want to build bridges to our surrounding neighborhood and the Arlington community instead of walls around ourselves.

Years ago there was a television show called "Mission Impossible". Each week Jim Phelps was assigned a new mission. He has a villain to defeat, a global problem to solve or a world to rescue; should he choose to accept. Jim always chose to accept his mission before the tape destructed in 10 seconds.

We also have been given a mission. Every day we are to desire to share in word or deed the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The only difference is that this mission isn't impossible; it is imperative. Thank you for being committed to "making disciples of nations."

God love you,
Pastor Dan

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

The council of Peace Lutheran Church met November 20, 2019, at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Bob Wavrin called the meeting to order, and Pastor Ritter offered an opening prayer.

The secretary's minutes and financial secretary's report were read and approved. The treasurer reported a balance of \$21,096.59 in the general fund. A motion carried to pay the bills presented.

Pastor Ritter presented a written report of his activities with a list of continued arrangements made through December 15th and through December 29th for Pastor Stern.

The board of education is beginning preparations and practices for Christmas. The form for the request of funds was completed and filed.

President Halquist explained that an ineligible candidate for the board of education needs to be replaced and that process is going on. Candidate for Pastor, the Rev. George Morris visited the community and met with the call committee at dinner on November 15th. The December door offering will be for Christmas bags on December 8th and December 15th.

The amount set for Christmas gifts for Sunday school is \$5 per pupil.

Committee chairmen will be: elders – Howard Brinkman; trustee – to be chosen; board of education – Nikki Stock; and BESS – Rhonda Stien.

A further discussion of inactive members was tabled to the January meeting.

A motion carried to complete the payment for the new copy machine from the building fund.

The meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary,
Pauline Wiemann

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

The council of Peace Lutheran Church met December 18, 2019, at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. After the Christmas bags were filled, Bob Wavrin called the meeting to order, and Pastor Ritter began with a prayer.

The secretary's minutes and financial secretary's report were read. The treasurer reported a balance of \$18,024.06 in the general fund. After a quorum was achieved, a motion carried to accept the reports and pay the bills presented.

Pastor Ritter distributed a written report of his parish activities. A motion carried to table Camp Omega's request for funds to the April meeting.

The board of education has rehearsed and prepared for Christmas programs. President Dave reported on his conversation with Pastor Morris and his decision to decline our call.

The group (elders and church secretary) who have been working on the list of inactive members will continue.

The special projects offering for January will be for the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.

The auditing committee will be assembled in due time.

The installation of officers will be in the morning service on January 5, 2020.

The annual voters' meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2020, in the church sanctuary.

The elders will report the new assistant usher in January.

Sheila will use vacation time January 20th & 21st.

The continuing issue of mice was discussed. A motion carried to purchase "Bait Station" for rodent control.

The church bulletin for December 22, 29th and January 4th will have an advertisement for church secretary position.

The annual report will acknowledge the work of people who assist the financial secretary with Sunday offering reports.

The meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's prayer.

Secretary,
Pauline Wiemann

Peace Guild Minutes

The Peace Lutheran Guild met on Monday, November 25, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. President Ruth Wolter opened the meeting with a devotion on "Loving Terrible Gift Givers." The meeting was called to order, the secretary and treasurer's reports were read and approved. There was \$8,051.02 in the various accounts.

Altar committee reported that the paraments would be changed for Advent. It was reported that 6 greeting cards were sent since June. There was \$91.00 in sales of the cards & napkins.

There was some discussion about the "Over 80 Recognition" that will be held on Sunday, December 1st. We will be

serving muffins & fruit breads for fellowship after worship service. 5 people will be recognized: Eileen, Bode, Bud Bruhjell, Easther Kuebler, Dorrine Scharping and Marcie Schultz. They will receive a coffee mug with some treats in it.

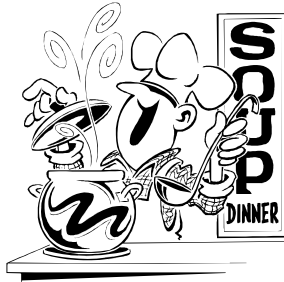
The position for treasurer and Vice President are up for election. Barb Mathwig will keep the treasurer's position and Joyce Shaver will remain as the Vice President. Thank You!

The proceeds from the Soup & Sandwich in January will be divided as such: 1/2 to missions and 1/2 towards the church parking lot repairs.

The Offering of Love was read and Mites were collected. The meeting adjourned.

The Christmas tree was decorated after the meeting. The next meeting will be on Sunday, January 19th after church service.

Respectfully submitted,
Juanita Kube



The "Feeding of the 500 Club" will meet on January 20, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. Please feel free to join us.

The office hours for September through May are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8 a.m. – noon and Wednesday 8 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NEWSLETTER" DEADLINE
Items for the February "Newsletter" are due in the church office by noon on Monday, January 20, 2020

January Readers
1/5 Brian & Emily Bullert
1/12 Rachael Dose & Eva Hendrycks
1/19 Ruth Wolters & Joyce Shaver
1/26 Daryl Thurn & Mike Westphalen



Peace Guild

Altar Committee for January

1-12 Carol Mesenbring & Barb Mathwig
13-31 Yvonne Gennrich

Kitchen Committee for January

Yvonne Gennrich

At Home With God

Of all persons, the Christian should be best prepared for whatever the New Year brings...In Christ he has disposed of a thousand enemies that other men must face alone and unprepared. He can face his tomorrow cheerful and unafraid because yesterday he turned his feet into the ways of peace and today he lives in God. The man who has made God his dwelling place will always have a safe habitation. -A. W. Tozer

How to find Peace
Blessed are the single-hearted, for they shall enjoy much peace. If you refuse to be hurried and pressed, if you stay your soul on God, nothing can keep you from that clearness of spirit which is life and peace. In that stillness you will know what his will is.

**USHER/ACOLYTE SCHEDULE
For January**

Elder
Brian Bullert

Acolyte
Jan. 5 Rachael Dose
Jan. 12 Tyson Durham
Jan. 19 Morgan Haggemiller
Jan. 26 Paris Kube

USHERS

Jan. 5, 2020
*Allan Dose Carl Dykhoff
Laura Dykhoff Morgan Halquist

**Jan. 12, 2020 Holy Communion –
Special Project Offering**
*Ron Laabs Betsy Laabs
Ellerd Mathwig Barb Mathwig

Jan. 19, 2020 Holy Communion
*Morris Mesenbring Emily Halquist
Dale Meyer Rich Mueller

Jan. 26, 2020
*James Mueller Jordan Mueller
Joey Mueller Lowell Nagel

Begin Anew

Every morning lean thine arms awhile
Upon the windowsill of heaven
And gaze upon thy Lord.
Then, with the vision in thy heart,
Turn strong to meet thy day.
-Thomas Blake

Love in Action

Martin Luther King Jr., whose life and legacy we honor this month, spoke often about the power of love. In fact, he equated the practice of nonviolence with “absolute commitment to the way of love.” Love, declared the minister and activist, “is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.” And, he said, anyone who’s devoid of the power of love” is “devoid of the power to forgive.” King distinguished between true love and “empty sentimentalism,” however. He taught – and showed – that love is “the active outpouring of one’s whole being into the being of another.”

Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross is the ultimate “active outpouring” of love, and we can choose to follow his example daily.

“Because of Calvary I’m free to choose,” writes Max Lucado in *When God Whispers Your Name*. No occasion justifies hatred; no injustice warrants bitterness. I choose love. Today I will love God and what God loves.”

The Living present

There are two ways of remembering. One is to make an excursion from the living present back into the dead past. The other way is to summon the dead past back into the living present... When Jesus said “Do this in remembrance of me,” (1 Corinthians 11:24), he was not prescribing a periodic slug of nostalgia.

-Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*

January Highlights

January

5	8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Sunday school Worship Service – Installation of Officers
8	10:30 a.m. 3:45 p.m.	Fellowship Catechism
12	8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Sunday school Worship Service (Special Project Offering with Holy Communion
15	10:30 a.m. 3:45 p.m.	Fellowship Catechism
19	7:00 p.m. 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Council meeting Sunday school Worship Service with Holy Communion
20	10:30 a.m.	Guild meeting & fellowship
22	11:30 a.m.	Feeding of the 500 Club
26	3:45 p.m. 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Catechism Sunday school Worship Service
29	10:30 a.m. 3:45 p.m.	Voters' meeting Soup & Sandwich Luncheon Catechism