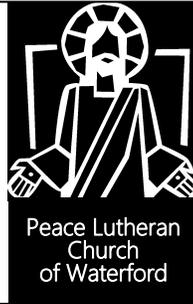


PAX PEACE



The Voice of Peace

PEACE MISSION STATEMENT...

To witness and live as followers of Christ; serving one another in Christian love, so that God's Holy Spirit may save the lost and strengthen the saved.

NOVEMBER 2017



Dear friends in Christ,

This month we come to the close of another church year. It is a time for reflection and a time to look back at all this past year has brought. For some, it is a time of cautiously moving forward. For others, it is a time of quickly moving ahead into a new and better future.

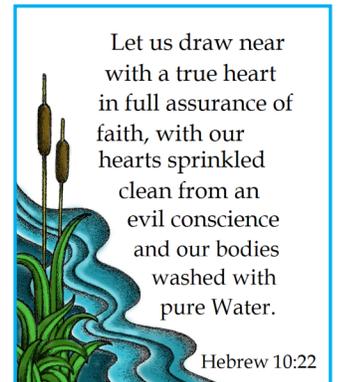
As the church, we too prepare for new beginnings. A new church year is upon us. The Advent of our King is before us. The old and the new at church is coming into focus as well. Fresh paint has covered the old, and new carpet is what the future holds. It is not the new carpet and paint that make our time in worship special or better, but it is our time to care for this house of worship that God has given us. As we honor His house and this place of peace that He has given us, let us remember the true joy that is here for you – forgiveness, mercy, and renewal.

Why Go to Church, by Rev. Rolf Preus, begins with this newsletter. I pray that you find a new focus and fresh start for this upcoming church year. As the writer to the Hebrews reminds his readers and us:

"Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful" (Hebrews 10:19-24).

In Christ,
Pastor Tkac

Please see your newsletter centerfold (hard copy version) or end of newsletter (e-mail version) for Part I of Rev. Preus' commentary.



"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you PEACE." Numbers 6:24-26

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The Voice of Peace is the monthly Newsletter of:

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In the Office

Pastor Tkac: Monday—Thursday
Debbie Wittke: Monday—Thursday
Hours: 9 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Worship and Class Schedule:

Saturday Divine Worship 6:30 p.m.
Sunday Divine Worship 10:30 a.m.

Note: Unless otherwise noted, no classes Memorial Day — Labor Day

Intergenerational Sunday School
in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m.

Midweek Adult Bible Class

Thursday 2:30—3:30 p.m.

7th/8th Confirmation Class

Monday 5:30—6:30 p.m.

5th/6th Confirmation Class

Monday 6:30—7:30 p.m.



NOVEMBER 2017 ACOLYTE AND READER SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 6:30 P.M.

04/05 Acolyte: Olivia Fisher
Reader: Mark Bunarek
11/12 Acolyte: Emma Carlson
Reader: Pastor Merrell
18/19 Acolyte: Sam Powell
Reader: Ginny McDonald
25/26 Acolyte: Scotty Dobson
Reader: Judy Harroun

SUNDAY 10:30 A.M.

Jaystin Slavik
Jon Parlette
Brianna Squanda
Lynette Bright
Jaystin Slavik
Joan Rich
Brianna Squanda
Robin Gallmeyer

SATURDAY

NOVEMBER ELDERS: Mark Bunarek

SUNDAY

Skip Bushart

NOVEMBER ALTAR GUILD: Kim Nold / Rebekah Nold



Funds & Missions

Carpet
St. Paul Mission



Celebrating an ANNIVERSARY

	YEARS
01 Duane & Eleanor Brown	70
15 Eric & Leanne Fisher	20
24 Timothy & Connie Kiefiuk	22

We Miss You!

Sunday School for the year has started, but are you missing in action? We meet on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:20 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We sing a couple songs together, then the kids go to their classroom for a Bible lesson, while the adults do their Bible study. We encourage one and all to be in the Word [Jesus Christ] that leads life eternal!



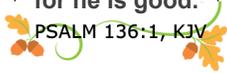
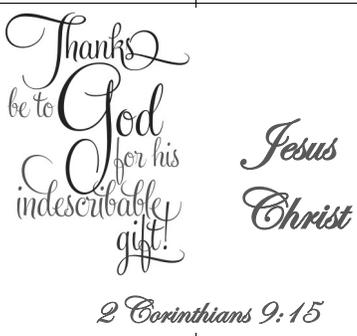
Celebrating a BIRTHDAY

- 02 Scott Regentin
- 05 Walter Richley
- 06 Tammy Franckowiak
- 07 Marlene Wanke
- 10 Carol Hartig, Paul Wendland
- 12 Lana Dabb, Junette Rich
- 19 David Jones
- 23 Patricia Rich, Cyndi Salinis
- 24 Richard Heinz, Shannon Klein, Shelby Talkington
- 25 Veretta Cheal, Jonathan Nold
- 27 Kathryn Zolbe
- 28 Kylie Gidcumb
- 29 Peggy Madsen



We Miss You at
Sunday School

Houghton Elementary November 2017 Winter Clothing Drive

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																																																																																
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="7">October 2017</th> <th colspan="7">December 2017</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>	October 2017							December 2017							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7					1	2		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	29	30	31					24	25	26	27	28	29	30								31									1	2	3	4
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Men's Breakfast Bible Study



Join us for Bible study and breakfast Saturday, **November 4**. Come and feed both soul and body. We will gather at 9:00 a.m.

for breakfast and finish with Bible study taught by Pastor Tkac. You will surely be built up in the faith that leads to life eternal as the Holy Spirit works within you!

Turn your clocks back one hour

Daylight Saving Time ends **Sunday, November 5**. Remember to turn your clocks *back* one hour before retiring for the evening on **Saturday, November 4**.



Church prayer meeting



On Tuesday, **November 7 and December 5**, the church will be open once again at 7:00 p.m. for a prayer meeting. Matt Rich and Jay Squanda will read and

discuss a short reading. Then, all will share time praying together. Bring your prayer needs as we offer them up to the Lord. At 7:30, we call it a night. The hope is that this will give us, as a church, time together for the strengthening of our own prayer life with the fruits of our prayers benefitting those for whom we pray — in His time and in His way.

Houghton School winter clothing needed



The weather is now colder, and the kids at our mission school, Houghton Elementary, will need clothing to keep them warm. We have begun a collection of items. The list is on the large box located in the narthex. Make the life of a kid more comfortable; donate an item or two.

E-mail account change notice



We will start using our new Google e-mail accounts **November 1**, and our AT&T accounts will be closed. The church and secretary, Debbie, will use the same e-mail account. Pastor Merrell will keep his current account at peacefulshepherd@sbcglobal.net.

Pastor Tkac: peacetkac@gmail.com
Peace/Debbie: peacewaterford@gmail.com

Coming in December

Advent ~

The first weekend in December begins the Season of Advent. Join us for worship and a light dinner on Wednesday, December 6, 13, and 20. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. followed by worship at 7:00 p.m. Join us as we prepare for Christmas, a time of patient waiting for the reappearing of Christ, and a time to nurture the gift of patience for daily life.



December 3 ~ Christmas Caroling



We will gather to carol to our shut-ins sometime in the afternoon. Watch for the time in your December newsletter and bulletins. This is an all-church event, with children and youth welcome! Remember, you do NOT need to have the voice of a professional only a joy for bringing a glad sound that will put a smile on the faces of the homebound who cannot get out for Advent and Christmas worship services and activities.

December 7 ~ Advent by Candlelight

All women and girls are invited. Plan to join us for an evening of visiting, beautiful music, and delicious dessert. Gather with us as we prepare our hearts for the Season of Advent and Christmas.



Date: Thursday, December 7
Time: 6:30 p.m. appetizers / 7:00 p.m. program
Place: Peace Lutheran Church

A sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board. Feel free to bring a guest!

December 10 ~ Children's Christmas Program



We will hand out parts to older kids soon. Practices will be held according to their availability. Younger children will be angels, shepherds, and manger animals. We will rehearse Saturday, **December 9** (time to be determined). The program will be during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Children will need to arrive by 9:15 a.m. to get into costume. Parental help is most welcome. If you have any questions, contact Monica Tkac at 248-673-0042.

Why Go to Church?
By Rolf Preus ~ October 14, 2000
Part I



Several years ago a Lutheran pastor from Michigan did his own study of religious tracts that dealt with the topic of my talk today: Why go to church? He ordered about fifty such tracts from various groups, Reformed and Lutheran. The tracts gave any number of good reasons to go to church including to

learn God's word, to be spiritually enriched and strengthened, to enjoy Christian fellowship, to offer praise to God, etc. The primary reason for going to church, however, was entirely ignored by the Reformed tracts and barely mentioned by the Lutheran ones. I refer, of course, to the forgiveness of sins. We go to church for the forgiveness of sins. We go to church to get saved. We go to church so that we may find Jesus the Savior who gives us eternal life.

Martin Luther wrote in the Smalcald Articles (III, XII), "Thank God, a seven-year-old child knows what the church is, namely holy believers and sheep who hear the voice of their Shepherd." And what does that voice give us? Let Jesus answer: "My sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of my hand." (John 10:27-28) The means by which Jesus gives eternal life to his sheep is his voice, his word. The Augsburg Confession gives us the biblical definition of the Church in these words: "The church is the assembly of saints [the German text uses the word "believers" for "saints"] in which the Gospel is taught purely and the sacraments are administered rightly." (AC VII) I have noticed in my reading of Luther and the Lutheran Confessions that the church is never defined simply as believers or saints. It is always defined as believers or saints who hear the voice of the Shepherd or among whom the gospel is preached and the sacraments are administered. There is no church nor are we the church except as God

himself has called, gathered, enlightened and sanctified us. Christ, the head of the church, sends the Holy Spirit. He is the Spirit of Christ. Jesus said, "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life." (John 6:63) There is no church without Christ, his Spirit, and his words. Through his word we are born again. Through his word God serves us. This he does in what we call the Divine Service.

We use the word "worship" in English. That's a good old English word meaning, literally, "worthship." To worship God is to ascribe to God his true worth. He is worthy to be feared, loved, and trusted above all things. This worship is our work. It cannot be offered unless and until God creates in us the faith and the will to do so. But worship is our duty to God. Worship is our service to God. God does not worship us; we worship him. But God does serve us. In the German, a word that is often mistranslated as "worship" is the word *Gottesdienst*, which means literally Divine Service. The Divine Service is often called the Liturgy, which comes from the Greek word for service. The Divine Service is what has been going on Sunday mornings for a long, long time. If I may restate my assigned topic, "Why go to church," I am really asking, "Why must we be served by God?" I am not asking why we should serve God. I would think that anybody could answer that question unless he were utterly ungodly and without any religious impulse whatsoever. Surely our consciences, our natural knowledge of God described by St. Paul as belonging even to the heathen, teaches us that we must serve God. But that's not the question I pose to you today. I want to know why you must be served by God. And that is not so easy to answer.

Soli Deo Gloria † To God Alone Be Glory

Part II will appear in the December Newsletter.