

Pastor's Ponderings....

"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness" - Former Archbishop Desmond Tutu 2010



In the midst of the continuing pandemic and a more deepening divide in our society and world, I look to the leaders of the universal church for wisdom and guidance.

Christians throughout the generations have been given the call to be the church in our everyday vocations.

What ways are we the church everyday?

Where have we seen the light despite all of the darkness in our midst as Desmond Tutu stated?

Tutu also stated, *"Do your little bit of good where you are; it is those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."*

When have we done a 'little bit of good' in our daily lives and how has it made an impact not only for the one who received yet also for ourselves?

Jesus in multiple gospels calls the people to hear the command of their ancestors.

Matthew 7:12 *"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and Prophets."* Luke 6:31 *"Do to others as you would have them do to you."* John 13: 34-35 *"A new command I give you. Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

In the lighthearted book, "The Christian Handbook," we are given tips on 'How to do good on behalf of people who are poor and oppressed.' (© 2005 Augsburg Fortress)

Called to Love one another is a theme for this month of August! Be Love and Be Church!

Peace,

Pastor Melissa



2020

50 years of Peace

805 W. Olrich St.

Rogers, AR 72756

Church Office:

479-636-2140

Worship Services

Sat: 5:00 pm

Sun: 8:30 am & 11:00 am

Educational Time: 10 am

Pastor Melissa Ehrhardt

pastor@peace-church.org

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Council Notes

The Council was able to meet via Zoom on Sunday, July 19th.

Present were Lori Watkins, Doug Case, Judy Heineman, Megan Michael and Pastor Melissa. Betty Hurd was unable to participate due to Terry's health concerns.

The Council reviewed the financials through June. Giving is down and so are expenses. This will continue to be closely monitored.

Working with the Education Team, Pastor is happy to announce the Vacation Bible School will be held in the church parking lot. (*This is now being provided virtually*)

Based on survey responses and the current Covid-19 situation, the Council decided that on-line worship will continue for the foreseeable future. On-line worship has been drawing an average of over 100 viewers every Sunday.

The auditor is still working on the state mandated audit of PeaceKids financials records (re food program and tuition reimbursement payments). The audit fee will be \$3,500 and PK currently has a bank balance of \$1,500. The Council moved to transfer \$2,000 from our money market account to the PK account to cover the audit cost.

The sanctuary organ required unbudgeted repairs and the church budget is not sufficient to cover the full cost. The Council moved that \$800 be transferred from the Organ Annuity account to the general fund to cover this expense.

A request to use the sanctuary for a non-member wedding in September was denied.

Pastor is hoping to take some well-earned vacation time in August. Pastor Liz Albertson will be providing an online sermon on Aug 9th and she is looking for a supply preacher for Aug 16th. Due to the virus activity in Nebraska, it may end up being a "staycation".

Online Worship Services

See www.peace-church.org

to connect. **NO Facebook account required.**

You may connect directly to Facebook at
www.facebook.com/PeaceChurchAR

Stay tuned for info on
joining in for virtual coffee
hours via Zoom on
Sundays

*Pray that, like
God, we might
be "merciful and
gracious, slow
to anger and
abounding in
steadfast love
and
faithfulness."*

—Prayer Ventures
ELCA.org



A Message From Bishop Michael Girlinghouse Arkansas/Oklahoma Synod

*You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone
be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for
your anger does not produce God's righteousness.*

— James 1:20

When I was in elementary school, in anger, I punched a friend in the stomach after lunch and he promptly threw up on the hot radiator. I learned that day that uncontrolled anger has consequences that can linger for a long, long time. Anger is just one of many emotional responses we can have in the face of change, loss and grief. But, anger itself is just that: an emotional response. It's what we do with it that makes it either constructive or destructive. James does not say we should never get angry. He says we should be "slow to anger." Sometimes our anger is entirely justified. It can motivate us to address injustices, wrongs and unhealthy behavior. But it can also lead to rage, violence and destruction. Producing God's righteousness does not come from striking back, but by building bridges. That requires deep listening and carefully picked words in order to deescalate potentially volatile situations.

ALL ON-SITE ACTIVITIES POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

*Re-opening is complex; in addition to social
distancing, removing items to prevent touching,
disinfecting the facility is required. After worship
or any event, thorough disinfection has to be done
all over again.*

NEWS TO NOTE

**Every Sunday, we
are communing
online from your
Home**



August Anniversaries

Stretch & Nell Hantelman	8/2
Ken & Judy Heineman	8/16
Danny & Cathy Miller	8/20
Ellick & Phyllis Morey	8/26
Erv & Nancy Wiedenhoef	8/29
Eric & Leslie HYTE	8/30

sending virtual hug



Festivals and Commemorations in August

- 6 [Transfiguration of Our Lord](#)
- 8 [Dominic](#), priest, founder of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), 1221
- 10 [Lawrence](#), deacon, martyr 258
- 11 [Clare](#), Abbess of San Damiano, renewer of the Church, 1253
- 13 [Florence Nightingale](#), 1910; [Clara Maass](#), 1901; renewers of society
- 14 [Maximilian Kolbe](#), 1941; [Kaj Munk](#), 1944; martyrs
- 15 [Mary](#), Mother of Our Lord
- 20 [Bernard](#), Abbot of Clairvaux, hymnwriter, theologian, 1153
- 24 [Saint Bartholomew](#), Apostle
- 28 [Augustine](#), Bishop of Hippo, 430
[Moses the Black](#), monk, martyr, c. 400

August Birthdays

Nora Sharif	8/6	Orin Ribar	8/19
Phyllis Morey	8/8	Connie Henry	8/21
Gene Peavler	8/8	Millie Heyne	8/21
Marcy Buchanan	8/10	Judy Heineman	8/29
Izzy HYTE	8/10	Jean Stover	8/31
Greg Henry	8/18	Joan Boysen	8/31

Attendance	Jul 5	Jul 12	Jul 19	Jul 26
Worshipping on line				
Average views weekly 100+				

8th Annual Jan & Dean Team Walk to End Alzheimer's

Watch your email for detailed information on how you can support this effort on Sat, Sep 12th. It will feature small group walks rather than the usual centralized large group at NWACC.

Dean, now 95 years old, will walk at Grand Brook Memory Care in Rogers while Jan, 94, will walk (masked and distanced) with family and neighbors on Rivercliff Road. Contact Jan Muetzel at 479.925.2292 if you would like to make a direct donation. She'll even pick cash or checks!

2020 Peace Lutheran Church Council

- Lori Watkins—President & Outreach
- Doug Case—Vice President & Property & Education
- Betty Hurd—Treasurer & Stewardship
- Judy Heineman—Secretary & Worship & Music
- Megan Michel— Celebrations

Looking for 2 more council members

Pr. Melissa Ehrhardt—Council Advisor

<i>Financial Snapshot</i>	Actual June	YTD Actual	YTD Expected	Shortfall or on target
Tithes & Offerings	\$13,101	\$80,130	\$100,500	(\$20,369)
Other Receipts	\$834	\$8,354	\$10,250	(\$1,896)
Total Revenue	\$13,935	\$88,484	\$110,750	(\$22,266)
Total PLC Expenses				
Transferred to PeaceKids		\$8,000		

Peace's Food Pantry

Our Food Pantry continues to be closed until further notice. Contributions to PLC's food pantry are being sent to the NWA Food Bank so we are still able to meet the need of the food insecure. Sadly, this is a growing population needing support. New ways to re-open are being evaluated. Stay tuned.



PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

805 W. Olrich St., Rogers, AR 72756



Lutherans...We're in it for the long haul.

Keep the Faith



Luther and Lutheranism

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

Martin Luther was eight years old when Christopher Columbus set sail from Europe and landed in the Western Hemisphere. Luther was a young monk and priest when Michaelangelo was painting the Sistine Chapel in Rome. A few years later, he was a junior faculty member at a new university in small-town Germany, intently studying the Scriptures, “captivated with an extraordinary ardor for understanding Paul in the Epistle to the Romans.”

In these days Luther was tormented by the demand for righteousness before God. “I did not love, yes, I hated the righteous God who punishes sinners, and secretly, if not blasphemously, certainly murmuring greatly, I was angry with God.” Then, in the midst of that struggle with God, the message of the Scriptures became clear, like a long-shut door opening wide. When he realized that a “merciful God justifies us by faith ... I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates.”

What Luther discovered is the freedom of Christians trusting God’s mercy in Christ. As he later wrote, “Faith is God’s work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God. This faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing. It is impossible for it not to be doing good works incessantly. Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that believers would stake their lives on it a thousand times.”

This discovery set Luther’s life on a new course —both his own life and his public service as a preacher and teacher. When a church-endorsed sales team came to the Wittenberg area in October, 1517, Luther was concerned that the promotion and sale of indulgences undermined the promise of God’s unreserved mercy in Jesus and the faith that trusts that promise. His *95 Theses* or *Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences* became the first of a life-long stream of books, sermons, letters, essays, even hymns in which he expressed his confidence in this life-giving promise from God, the Gospel, and its liberating implications for all of life in church and society.

—www.ELCA.org

People wonder what the post-COVID world and the post-COVID church will look like. No one, except God, knows for certain. Our experience with worshiping remotely has taught us at least two things: the word of God expressed in worship, lament and praise is not irrelevant. And people who find our congregations—the building and people—intimidating or off-putting also long to be part of a community that witnesses to the life we have in Jesus.

—Bishop Elizabeth Eaton
Living Lutheran—July 2020