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Messenger of Peace

The monthly newsletter of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Messenger of Peace is a publication of Peace Lutheran Church, Wautoma, Wisc.

Purpose: *Messenger of Peace* serves the Peace Lutheran Church family with information about people and events that are part of the Peace ministry and with articles that encourage Christian living.

Articles: Please forward information and articles to Christine in the office by the 3rd Sunday of each month. Email it to: peacelutheranwautoma@gmail.com.

Gracious words
are like
honey
sweet to the soul
PROV. 16:24



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Circle of Peace

Fall Festival

Sunday, September 26

All ages are invited to join us for an old-fashioned fall festival.

Schedule of Events

9 am Worship
10 am Bible Study/Sunday School
10:45 am Brunch followed by outside games, music with Pastor Tom, a silent auction, and a live pie auction

The entire family is invited to join the fun. Invite your friends and neighbors! Talk to any member of Circle of Peace or Pastor for more information!



We need your help! We are looking for donations for our pie auction, we need pies! Apple, cherry, pumpkin, and every kind in-between!

Please bring your donations to the church kitchen on Sept. 26 before church.

Continue In What You Have Learned!

How much do you remember of what you learned in elementary school? On the show *"Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader?"*, adult contestants are pitted against 5th grade students in a test of knowledge. If you have ever tried to play along from home, it might surprise you to see just how much knowledge from that part of your life has slipped your mind. Without a need for those bits of information, our brains get rid of them in favor of keeping more useful things.

But in one case, we always want to be reviewing and learning from information given to us from a very young age. We want it to be a part of us, saturating every aspect of our lives. Through Paul, the Holy Spirit tells us, ***"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it."*** When it comes to God's Word, it is vital for all of us to follow Paul's advice.

What is the purpose of the Bible? If you ask people to answer that question, the answers you get might surprise you. People may see the Bible as an instruction manual, a marriage therapist, or a parenting manual, but rarely for what it truly is.

Others take a different, but no less false, view of the Good Book. They try to pick the Bible apart, seeking to figure out who really wrote and assembled it. Every word is open to debate. They are happy to disagree on everything but one point: the whole Bible is not God's Word.

Many people do not want the Bible to be God's Word. Sadly, God told us these things would happen. ***"For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear."*** They want it to be whatever they make of it, as long as it is not offensive or troubling to their conscience. "How good does the Bible make me feel?" becomes a primary concern. The Bible is a book viewed totally differently by the world and by believers.

We understand the true purpose of the Bible. The Holy Spirit has led us to trust the Bible for what it really is: the pure and completely true mistake-free Word of God himself. ***"How from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."*** The Bible was not written by individuals with their own social or political agendas. ***"For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."*** The Bible is the road map to heaven. Its entire message can be summed up in one word, one name: Jesus. In the Old Testament, prophets heralded the coming Messiah, the Savior who would usher in the kingdom of God. Then, in the New Testament, this Savior burst into the fabric of space and time to save us from our sins. All of Scripture finds its fulfillment in the death of Christ on the cross to forgive our sins and his resurrection which grants to us everlasting life in heaven.

When you or your children were younger, many of us had to have braces put on our teeth. These painful devices were used to straighten our crooked teeth and make them straight. The Bible serves the same purpose in our lives. It helps us see how crooked our lives have become with our sins. But then the Bible points us to the perfectly straight life of Jesus for our forgiveness. ***"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."*** That righteousness is Jesus doing everything necessary to make us righteous.

God's Word does serve as a guide for us, but only to see Jesus as the solution to our crooked lives of sin. Only when the gospel of Jesus forgiving our sins with his perfect life and death, then rising from death to forever defeat it, is the focus of our faith lives, are we properly using the Bible. Continue in what you have learned until you reach the perfect knowledge of life in heaven!



They often embarrassed their mother by the way they acted in public. It seemed to her that her sons were always arguing. At the supermarket, the brothers would fight about which cereal she should buy. When they were home they could never agree which movie to watch. Sometimes she doubted that her two boys would ever survive their childhood together.

While they often bickered, the brothers were also fiercely loyal to each other. If another child from the neighborhood made fun of one of them, the other was sure to come to his defense. It baffled their mother! How could they quarrel so, yet a short time later seek to protect their would-be rival? Blood truly must be thicker than water!

This scenario is a reality for many of us. Sibling rivalry, it seems, is universal. And for the most part, defense of one's own family is equally universal. Play-ground conversations usually prove this true.

God has another scenario he wants us to follow. He encourages us in the Bible to treat all people as though they were family. ***"Make every effort to add to your faith ... brotherly kindness"*** (2 Peter 1:5,7).

There are dozens of things that make each of us different from everyone else in the world. They include where we live, the color of our eyes, our talents, the size of our paycheck, and so on. Even though we enjoy associating with people who are like us, God wants us to treat everyone the way we would treat an idolized brother or sweet sister. After all, God's love prompted him to send his Son, so that *everyone* who believes in him has life in his name.

Blood is not always thicker than water.

Every person who is made a child of God through his Word and the water of baptism also becomes our brother or sister in Christ. They are family. Why don't you stop by for a visit at church some weekend to enjoy the fellowship of your spiritual family?



Thoughts on the Synod Convention

The format was different, but the purpose and results were unchanged.

The 66th Biennial Convention of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod was held at Luther Preparatory School, Watertown, Wis., on July 26-28. Last January, the potential restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic led the Conference of Presidents to alter the format and location of the convention. The location was moved from Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Mich., to Luther Preparatory School because of the more stringent restrictions existing in Michigan at the time. The format was changed to include about 20 percent of the delegates as in-person delegates, with the remaining delegates participating virtually. Elections and floor committee work was done via videoconference prior to the convention.

All things considered, the convention itself took place without significant problems with communication or participation by the virtual delegates.

The opening worship provided an inspiring start to the convention and focused on the convention theme "Here we stand." The convention theme recalled the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's bold stance on the Scriptures at the Diet of Worms in 1521. Rev. Joel Voss, second vice president of the synod, preached the sermon.

Some significant items of business that were addressed:

- Rev. James Huebner was reelected to another four-year term as the first vice president of the synod; Rev. Robert Pasbrig was reelected as the synod's recording secretary.
- President Earle Treptow of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary delivered the convention essay reviewing the significance of Luther's confession and its importance for the church today.
- The convention approved the synod's Ministry Financial Plan, which outlines the financial support for the work of the synod for the next two years. Chief Financial Officer Mr. Kyle Egan also reported that the synod ended last year in very good financial shape in all areas.
- The proposed change in the synod's pension plan from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan was approved and will be implemented on Jan. 1, 2022.
- The convention endorsed an ambitious plan by the Board for Home Missions to open 100 new missions over ten years, beginning in 2023.
- The convention was introduced to the new WELS hymnal and formally adopted it as the synod's hymnal. The new hymnal will be available in early fall.

Many other reports outlined and celebrated the many blessings that God has graciously given to our synod during the past two years and the many opportunities he is giving us for continuing to spread the message of Christ to the world.

The next convention is scheduled to be held at Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Mich., in 2023.

Find all the convention news, archived livestream video, and photos at: wels.net/2021synodconvention.

Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder



URGENT NEED



We are in urgent need of people to learn how to run the sound/video equipment for church services, as well as people to learn how to use the Hymnsoft for when we don't have an organist.

Please talk to Kevin Bohn (920-765-2146) if you can assist in either of these ways.



Advent by Candlelight Table hostesses needed



Want to ensure you have a seat at this year's Advent by Candlelight? Volunteer to be a table hostess and we will reserve a chair for you!

Hostesses provide table settings, holiday decorations, and a dessert for a table of 6-8 ladies. Many partner with one or two others to host a table. It is lots of fun, and requires only a few hours of your time for planning, baking (or buying) and decorating.

If you want to host a table this year (or need more information before committing), please call Christine at 920-787-3856.

Knitters and Crocheters

If you are interested in coming to the Knitters and Crocheters group, please call Linda Welty at 715-927-2455. All skill levels and ages welcome!

Peace Pantry Hours



The Peace Pantry is open during regular office hours during the week and by appointment. The pantry is open to our members and the community.

If you, or someone you know, is in need, please utilize our Pantry!

Call Christine at 920-787-3856 for more info.

Searching For....

The Peace Lutheran Girl Pioneers are searching for women who would like to participate in a Secret Sisters program. It's so simple- and a great way for our girls to get to know women in our church family!

It's simple: Each girl will be given a Secret Sister. Then once a month or so, the Girl Pioneers will write a card, make a craft, or some other fun activity to give to their Secret Sister. Then at the end of the school year, we will have a Secret Sister tea party where each girl's Secret Sister will be revealed!

What will you have to do? Not much! You will fill out a form so your Girl Pioneer will get to know a little about you; you can, if you want, give cards, notes, or little trinkets to your Girl Pioneer (like a birthday card or small Christmas ornament, etc.); be available for our tea party in May 2022.

Let's build some connections! If you are interested, please see Christine Bohn (920-787-3856).



Why Lutheran Pioneers?

The Peace Pioneers strive to be a group that not only has tons of fun (which we do!), but instills a love for our Savior and teaches our youth how to show that love in every aspect of their lives.

I see friendships that may not be as strong (or at all), if not for Pioneers. I see older Pioneers taking a genuine interest in younger Pioneers. I see adult leaders hugging Pioneers that they may not have gotten the chance to know. I see Pioneers talking easily about Christ to each other and to their non-Pioneer friends. I see love for each other. I feel love. And that is exactly what I had hoped for when we started this ministry. I wanted children and families to feel like they belong here- 'cause they do! Ask any Pioneer why they come back every year. Ask leaders why they work hard all year. It's all about love. Jesus' love for each of us and our response to that.

Please consider registering your child, aged Kindergarten-high school. We have children of all ages! The Pioneers is an open ministry which means we encourage our Pioneers to invite their unchurched friends. If you know anyone who isn't a member of Peace, but would benefit from the Pioneers, please see Christine.

Pioneers reaches families easily because of our "fun," and then keeps them because the kids make friends, the parents trust the leaders, and everyone hungers for the same truth- the truth that is expressed at EVERY Pioneers meeting and outing- the truth of Jesus.

All Sunday school students families, ages 5K and up, will be receiving a letter along with a registration form soon! If you don't receive one, or need extras for friends, let any Pioneers leader know.

We meet once a month on the last Sunday. We have lunch together; our meeting will follow.

Our first meeting will be on Sunday, September 19 11:30 am- 2:30 pm.

Kevin & Christine Bohn
920-765-2146 or 920-765-2147
Rebecca Bohn 920-765-2144
Emily Bohn 920-765-2145

Evangelism Sunday

Sunday, September 12

As Christians, we have the privilege and the command from our Lord to tell others about salvation through Jesus.

Do you ever have concerns or fears about witnessing in Jesus' name? Take out your Bible (or Bible app) and read the following passages: Luke 10:16; Matthew 10:19-20; Isaiah 55:11; Matthew 28:20.

God will never fail you. He will use your witness and make it serve the purpose He intends. Trust God's promises and share Jesus!

Evangelism Sunday is a great day to do that! Invite your friends, family, or neighbors to join you for church on September 12 at 9 am. Have your children invite their friends to join them at Sunday School. There will be a fun coffee hour after the service.

New Bible Study Opportunity

Sundays at 10:15 am

beginning September 12

Everyone is invited to join us for Bible Study in the sanctuary beginning September 12. This study is called "One by One" and through videos and discussion, explores how to reach out to others with the saving love of Jesus- one by one.

Please talk to Pastor Tews for more information about this exciting Bible class.



September Birthdays

9/1 Karen Mosier
9/8 Ardell Schwersenska
Nancy Lang
Allen Raatz
9/11 Marion Mischka
Tim Quinn
Cami Buschke
9/13 Jerry Kraus
9/20 Tom Welty
9/21 Leana Pankau
9/26 Clara Beyer
9/28 Florence Bettin
9/29 Jean Doubek



August Anniversaries

9/3 Jeff & Debra Raatz (16)
9/4 Jim & Pat Lichtenberg (50)
9/17 Tom & Teri Jo Fendler (33)
9/20 Tim & Nancy Quinn (41)
9/24 DuWayne & Jean Bartel (61)
Bob & Nancy Lang (38)



If we missed your birthday or anniversary, that means the church does not have it. Please drop off dates at the church office, call 787.3856 or email peacelutheranwautoma@gmail.com.

Please Keep Our College Students in Your Prayers

Brooke Blader-Lucht, UW-Stevens Point
Emily Bohn, Midstate Tech College
Rebecca Bohn, Midstate Tech College
Dayna Lemke, UW- Stevens Point
Tanya Rooney, Fox Valley Tech
Shania Royston, Madison Tech

In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:6

Sunday School Corner

Save the Date! The first day of Sunday School for the 2021-2022 school year will be on September 12.

4K and up will meet in the Sunday School classroom directly off the fellowship hall on the left side. The 2-3 year-olds will meet in the preschool/Kindergarten room in the Sunday School hallway. We meet from 10:15 am until 11:15 am.

We use the ChristLight Sunday School curriculum from Northwestern Publishing House (the publishing house of the WELS). We will study lessons from both the Old and New Testaments.

Our Sunday School program also includes music; we are planning on singing in church a few times during the school year, as well as our annual Children's Christmas Service, which will be the Sunday prior to Christmas.

All families will be receiving a letter with details of our year towards the end of August.

Children are encouraged to invite their friends to join us for any class!

Sunday School is an extension of the family. We are here to assist families in their job of teaching and preparing young Christians for life. We consider it a privilege to serve the families of our congregation and urge each of you to take an active role in the Christian education of the children in your lives.

Please speak with me, any Sunday School teacher, or Pastor for more information about Sunday School, to volunteer, or to donate to the Sunday School program.

Karin Hetcher (920-240-6201)
Sunday School Superintendent

