

June 2020 Newsletter

Western Edge Parish (Peace Lutheran, Dickinson & St. John's Lutheran, Richardton)

Serving the community in partnership.

From the Pastor

Dear Members and Friends of Peace Lutheran Church and St. John's Lutheran Church,

The biggest news to announce in this month's newsletter is that at the May 19th Peace Lutheran council meeting the church council decided that we will resume in person worship services at Peace Lutheran on Sunday, June 7th at our regular time – 10:00 am. We are also planning to live-stream the service on Peace Lutheran's Facebook page. (At the time of this writing, St. John's council has not met to decide when its in person worship services will resume.)

When you return to worship, things will look a little bit different:

- no shaking hands or sharing the peace
- no communion (to start with)
- no coffee hour (the church kitchen will be closed)
- no using hymn books
- rows of chairs will be spaced further apart
- offering plates will not be passed but will be placed in the church for you to drop your offering into, keep in mind that electronic giving is still acceptable and encouraged
- very limited congregational singing
- masks are encouraged



There are a lot of “no’s” on that list, but these are recommendations being passed on from churchwide and the Western ND Synod that we must follow to keep people safe and to be responsible. The church council at Peace Lutheran wanted to give you some options for worshiping but keep in mind, **if you are ready to come back for in person worship, we welcome you. If you are not ready, we respect your decision to stay home.**

If possible, some of our worship services this summer will be held outdoors in the church lawn allowing for even more safety and distancing. We will announce those plans in the weekly constant contact message that is e-mailed to our members. If you are not on that list and want to be, please contact the church or me. You can email me at pas-tormikepretzer@gmail.com with your email address or peacelutheran@ndsupernet.com and we will add you to the list. When we hold worship outside, we will ask that you bring your own chair to sit in.

We will ease into in person worship, being very cautious as we go. The pandemic is not over. Therefore, we will take the necessary precautions as we gather for worship, keeping in mind that things can always change quickly. So use your best judgment and do what you need to do for your own safety and health. We will continue to hope and pray for a swift end to infections from the coronavirus so that life can resume some sort of normal. Always remember, God is with you through all of this!

With Peace,

Pastor Mike Pretzer

Caring Hands for June

February, June, & October

Steve & Sandra Day

Derek & Shelby Jilek

Kim & Mike Jones

Mike & Alecia Pretzer

Lynette Harsted

Travis & Lisa Holding Eagle

Eric & Terry Halvorson

Joy Knot

Greg & Amy Beck

Karen Dowhaniuk

Craig Lange

Joren Nordahl

During your month, sign up (or email or call the church) to help with the following worship/fellowship needs. You can sign up in pairs to help each other out with worship and fellowship duties, if desired. Sign up sheets are located at the church along with a signup sheet for mowing.

-Worship hosts

-Greet people and hand them a bulletin

-Make sure the candles are lit

-Collect offering

-Fellowship hosts

-Make a pot of coffee/heat the water kettle for tea

-Provide some kind of snacks (bars, fruit, toast, meat/cheese, cookies, etc)

The Connection 103.7 Update!

We wanted to send you a quick update on the station. As you may have noticed, our signal was weak for a few weeks recently. Our antenna was damaged by a windstorm in April. We are happy to inform you that we have purchased a stronger antenna that is better suited for the North Dakota weather extremes. We are back and stronger than ever!

To recoup the cost of this repair, we are going to be having a fundraiser in the first part of June. Our goal is to raise \$7,261, which is the cost of the equipment and labor.

Even if someone is unable to give, we still would like them to keep us in prayer during this time. We are also looking for testimonials from our listeners about ways God has used the station to touch their lives. If anyone is interested in this, please contact the station at 483-1037.

We are so thankful for partners like you that help us reach out to the Dickinson community and share the hope that is only found in Jesus.

Blessings,

Reese Saxon

General Manager



Congratulations to our Peace Lutheran High School Graduates, the Class of 2020!

Peace Lutheran Church congratulates two of our youth who graduated from Dickinson High School this spring. They are Noelle Schmidt the daughter of Marisa and Shane Schmidt and Brennan Swensrud the son of Brock and Jami Swensrud. May God bless you as God walks with you on the journey of your life.



Summer Mowing Schedule

Terry Halverson has volunteered to put together a summer mowing schedule for the church yard. If you are able to volunteer this summer to mow, please contact her to get on the schedule. Thank you to everyone who can help out with this important summer job! Terry can be reached at 701-260-4083.



The Community Garden Is Up and Growing!

The new growing season is upon us. The community garden is about half planted, so there is still plenty of room for more gardeners in Peace Lutheran's Community Garden. If you are interested in a spot, check out the church website, review the forms, and return the appropriate forms and fees. You can also talk to Pastor Mike (701-681-1306) to get set up. Tell your family, friends, and co-workers about this wonderful place to garden!



Thank You for Sending in Your Offering.

We cannot express our thanks enough to the congregational members at both Peace Lutheran and St. John's who continue to share their offerings and gifts with the church. Your dedication to the ministry of your church and the work of the Spirit is greatly appreciated!



Devotions from the Badlands



If you are on Facebook, check out the Devotions from the Badlands page for a daily devotion Monday through Saturday from area ELCA Pastors. Each day you will be connected to the Holy presence of God who remains with us during this challenging and changing time. Pastor Mike's day is Monday. The rest of the week's devotions will be provided by area ELCA Pastors.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING,

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Deidra Shannon (Terry H. cousin)
Megan Grabow (Shelby & Derek Sister-in-Law)
Julie Anderson (Friend of Holdahls)
Navah DenHerder
Ervin & Florence Heidecker
Eric Sellers (Cancer)
Adam Karpyak and Family
Tammy McReynolds (Terry Halversons Sister)
Matt Ellerkamp (Brain Tumor Treatment)

COMMUNITY PRAYERS:

All those serving in the military & their families. Our partner congregation, St. John's Lutheran in Richardton, Lutheran Social Services, Badlands Ministries, the Ministries in the Central African Republic.

ST. JOHN'S IN RICHARDTON

Harrison Job Magstadt & his parents Haley & Nathan Magstadt
Kristin Johnson
Shawn Hauck
James Hauter (Lynn Johnson's Father)
Wellde Heinle- Recurrence of cancer
Arlyne Magstad
Shirley Kitzan
Dee Homelvig -Chemotherapy
Emmalou Lavine (Armin's Sister)
Family of Joe Hauter
Duane Rakness (Heart Surgery)

If anyone is missing or if you would like to add someone to the list, please contact Pastor Mike or Lanie in the church office.

Other Events In June

June 7– Worship at Peace Lutheran begins again! 10AM
June 16– Church Council Meeting @ 7PM



Mark Your Calendar

» UPCOMING EVENTS



June 2020

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right pathways for his namesake. Even though I walk through the Valley of shadow of death I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, And I shall dwell in the House of the Lord my whole life long.

As I contemplated what to write for June's Gospel Seeds; this Psalm kept ringing in my head and heart. It is a psalm filled with promises of how God will always tend to us throughout our life, but it does so with a clear-eyed look at the realities of life.

We are living in the midst of the valley of the shadow of death. I believe that it is always true but with the COVID-19 pandemic, which is our most recent pandemic, the shadow of death is even more pronounced and discernible. For several of our counties in western North Dakota, they are still without a COVID-19 case and for others who have had cases, folks have recovered. However, death has come to western North Dakota from this new cause.

We have had a table prepared for us in the presence of this new enemy, and I have been so impressed by our pastors and deacons and worship leaders that so swiftly moved from in-person to online worship so that the Good News of Jesus Christ would be continually shared. Now as we begin the movement back into in-person worship, I pray for each one of our worshipping communities because the move back will be more difficult, and it will not be a onetime decision.

The Western North Dakota Synod staff and the Churchwide staff have been diligent in drafting the best and wisest recommendations and guidelines using the most up-to-date information available to us at this time. As you have heard, we are living in an unprecedented time for most of us. But you have also heard that we are in this together. That is why we have worked with you to provide the best possible information to help you continued to get through this together. Please be mindful that the decision to begin in-person worship must be made locally by your church or parish council and rostered leader(s). You know your community and county. Please be in regular contact with your County Health Department Official. They will continue to be a wealth of helpful information as we move through the coming months. I also strongly recommend that even when you make the decision to move into in-person worship, please continue your online presence to the best of your abilities.

We at the Western North Dakota Synod office understand that this is a time of worry, fear, frustration and even anger, but it is also a time of remembering to whom we belong and that He will always be with us, preparing for us, and guiding us.

Let me close with a Thank You. I have been so appreciative of the leadership that I have witnessed in Western North Dakota Synod. I give thanks for your ongoing Mission Support to the WND Synod which has allowed us to continue our sharing of Mission Support with Churchwide. Thank you for this opportunity to walk with you during this time. Blessings to each one of you.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. David B Zellmer

Interim Bishop of the Western North Dakota Synod, ELCA

Council Meeting Minutes – via WebEx meeting teleconference call –May 19, 2020 7:00 PM

Present: Jessica Bertelsen, Bev Holdahl, Derek Jilek, Travis Kupper, Pastor Mike Pretzer, Tammy Sadowsky, and Kim Jones. Absent: Heather Fagerberg, Jeff Anderson, and Marilyn Huschka.

- 1) Bev called the meeting to order.
 - 2) Pastor Mike asked for update of council members on the call. Pastor led the group in prayer.
 - 3) April minutes reviewed. MSC Derek/Travis as corrected.
 - 4) Agenda – reviewed.
 - 5) Leadership Reports –
 - A. Pastor's Report – Pastor Mike commented that it is great to have the Community Garden up and running. He has developed an email list of the garden group. Outdoor wedding held 5/15/20 at the church. He has been participating with the pastoral group planning worship at St John's and streaming Devotions from the Badlands once a week. He has also been assisting a St John's member with medical paperwork for a Rochester trip. Synod Assembly will meet July 17 in Minot with a satellite meeting at St John, Dickinson.
 - B. Council is still in need of another member.
 - 6) Stewardship
 - Small Business Administration Payroll Protection Program- we did get the SBAPP loan. MSC Jessica/ Travis that Lanie & Sheila are paid regular wages for the 8-week measurement period.
 - Financial report – report reviewed. Discussion held on where the SBAPPP money is reflected. Per Travis, the money would be shown on the balance sheet as a liability. It would remain there until information supplied to SBA and if we receive loan forgiveness. Then it would become income and on the income statement. Per Heather, only the amount the bank deems forgivable will be shown, so there is a possibility that some of the loan will not be forgiven. MSC Travis/ Tammy to approve the financial report.
 - Rummage Sale – tabled the issue until next meeting.
 - Badland Camp Scholarships – money is available for members to attend camp.
 - 7) Worship
 - Partnership- Worship from the Badlands is going well, and services scheduled through May 31.
 - Devotions from the Badlands will continue, and plan is to expand with more leadership participating.
 - Starting in person worship services – Discussion held. Expectations for services would include keeping 6-foot distance, no shaking hands, no sharing the peace, no passing of the offering plate, will not use the fellowship area for coffee, every other row spacing of chairs, and changes in communion possible.
 - Outdoor worship services would be an option, weather permitting with people bringing their own chairs. The area will need to be sanitized after services. We will be starting in person worship services June 7. Notices regarding services will be posted on front door, in Constant Contact, Facebook, newsletter and mentioned during remaining St John joint services.
 - 8) Faith Formation – on hold for now.
 - 9) Community Partnerships
 - Community Garden- Jessica to contact sign company to check out progress on sign. Twenty-one plots have been rented to date. Weed barrier needs to be laid. Well is working.
 - Preschools – summer preschool may start mid-June for June and July.
 - AA – interested in holding meetings again when church building opens. Recommended that groups start after July 1, and that they are responsible for cleaning all surfaces after each meeting, and kitchen will not be available at this time.
 - 10) Building and Property
 - Parking Lot – lot is rough, needs another load of crushed asphalt to fill holes.
 - Exterior Painting – on hold
 - Planting & Lawnmower training scheduled for Wednesday May 27. Della received Thrivent card to use for planting supplies. Terry Halvorson is working on lawnmowing schedule. Contact Terry when you can help mow.
 - Carpet cleaning – done – looks great!
 - 11) Communication
 - A. Newsletter – June newsletter being planned
 - B. Constant Contact – Pastor continuing to send messages twice a week.
 - C. Facebook – Plan to stream live, all or part of our worship services.
 - 12) Next Meeting Date – June 16, at 7 pm. Closed with the Lord's Prayer and meeting adjourned.
- Respectfully submitted, Kim Jones

SJR— St. John's in Richardton

KA— Kid Academy Preschool (Monday-Thursday)

R2B— Room to Bloom Preschool (Tuesday/Thursday)

AA-Alcoholics Anonymous

June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Peace Worship-10AM	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Peace Worship-10AM	15	16 Council Meeting 7PM	17	18	19	20
21 Peace Worship-10AM	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Peace Worship 10am	29	30				

Peace Lutheran Church
1550 21st Street W
Dickinson, ND 58601
Phone: (701)483-1550
Website: peacelutherandickinson.com

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