

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

346 S. Mound Ave., Belmont, WI

May 2024 Newsletter



Peace Salutes the 2024 Graduates

We extend our congratulations to all members of Peace Lutheran who are graduating this spring from high school, technical college or a university.

Those members of Peace Lutheran Church who are graduating from High School in 2024 are:

Gavin Austin
Morgan Christensen
Bailey Mester
Bradley Riechers
Keagan Taylor

The 2024 Belmont High School Graduation ceremony is being held on Friday, May 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school gymnasium.

We extend our congratulations to Bailey Mester on being selected the Belmont High School 2024 Valedictorian.

Synod Assembly

Synod Assembly is being held on Saturday, May 18 in Janesville. Peace Lutheran can send two delegates to the assembly. Pastor Gus will be attending. Please let Pastor Gus know if you would like to be a delegate!

Stain Glass Windows In Need Of Repair And Upkeep

Congregational Meeting to be held

May 19, 2024 at 10:30 am (following worship)

Sometimes you just know it's a God thing and it can start with a small piece of mail. A year or so ago, council received a card in the mail asking if we would like a free inspection of our stain glass windows. We decided "why not?" and we are glad we did. Little did we know that, that piece of mail, could have been a nudge from God.

Without that initial inspection, we wouldn't have known that the stain-glass window above the entrance was in serious need of repair and without taking action we could lose that beautiful window. A company from Winona, MN came and inspected the windows, reported the bad news and gave us an estimate on repairs and upkeep. We then decided to get a second opinion from a recommended company from Davenport, IA. Results of needed repairs and upkeep were similar.

It's time to discuss this issue as a church body.

1. Large window above front doors has loose panels and is in need of existing cover removed, restoration/preservation, exterior millwork needs scraped, primed, and repainted, a vented protective covering placed on the outside using ¼" clear glass to protect window. (Estimated cost \$25,309) This would involve complete removal of the window, restoration, and reinstallation of window.
2. Other windows need existing cover removed, scrape, prime and paint exterior millwork, vented protective covering installed using ¼" clear glass. This would include all of the other stained glass windows except 2 that do not have needed work. (Estimated cost \$49,663) One of the companies did provide estimated replacement values on each window which totaled \$437,950.

After some investigation on the history of the stain glass windows, it appears they were installed in the 1940's following the Belmont tornado and rebuild of Peace Lutheran Church. Minimal upkeep has been done since that time.

As you can see, this is a significant investment so everyone's input is needed. We have the option of doing one or both repairs. Thoughts and ideas on how to fund these repairs also needs to be determined.

Please come to the meeting on May 19th!!

A Message From Pastor Gus

On the Road To Jerusalem After Easter Now What?

Pastor Gus Barnes Jr.

The question comes up often in the midst of the season of Lent during the time when Pastors are planning, when they often are scheduling funerals for loved ones, often when perhaps planning weddings and baptisms, why not bear the question.

March, we have had unseasonable weather, Donald Trump in the media has been declared a winner before the vote in November, the poor continues to be hungry and homeless, some declare our economy is at an all time low, so what's deal with Christ after Easter?

As a lifetime Lutheran since 1969, a member of the LCA-Lutheran Church of America, faith has never been on a schedule for me. We have bumped the clock an hour ahead, but the work of Christ, the work of Christ's mission continues. My sermons have been focused on the journey to the cross, our journey to Jerusalem, we move on beyond Easter Sunday walking in our faith, sharing the "Good News" what Christ gave to us despite the hungry, despite the poor, despite those who grieve, the little, despite the lost, despite lonely, despite the lost, despite the unloved.

Beyond Easter Sunday, the worship, beyond the Easter Breakfast, Jesus's mission continues, with or without our help. Often we attempt to judge if Christmas is greater than Easter. Theologically, Christ was born to save us from ourselves, took on the burden on the cross for our sins. So one would ask...ok, now what?

There will be the 50 days that Christ must prove his resurrection to the non-believers, after that he must return to the Father, his work then must continue here on earth without him visibly. Christ will come forward to those at the feast of Pentecost, speaking in varied tongues and cultures.

Post the resurrection Jesus spent his time on earth ministering and preparing his disciples and others

for his departure to the Father, as we contemplate his expected triumphal return to us .

The ascended Christ, will pour out his spirit to the church with power that inaugurates the new age of salvation. Christ has won salvation by his death on the cross, by granting forgiveness and the repentance of sin. We as others have been captive to sin and fear, Christ has paid the price, Christ has welcomed the marginalized by opening the door.

Week two of Easter, Jesus will breath and renew the breath of new life not only in doubting Thomas, by showings visible sign of his wounded self in broken bread offered to us each week. Next Christ will share food with the disciples to empower them to share the story of his suffering. Week four post Easter, Jesus is the Good Shepherd of us all. Christ relationship to us giving his life for the fold is an act of his unconditional love.

By week five Jesus, post resurrection is the vine and we are the branches. We are weekly fed and sent out as commissioners of the "good news" and finally Christ shows us the true meaning of being in friendship with one Another in which Christ originally began for us.

Jesus, ascends to the Father at Ascension as the disciples and us are to carry on the work of him, We fear not Christ is among us in Spirit, to empower us.

There are comparisons to Christmas and Easter- Christ was born to save us from ourselves, Christ died for us as the ultimate sacrifice for our sinful ways. Easter, we do not give presents Christ death was the gift for all humanity. So the question for us today is what are we willing to carry on the mission of Christ? How do we do it, as we ask God to help us

A Message From Pastor Kim

A Pastors' Thoughts On Funerals "All promises are binding unto death"

A few months ago I presided over a graveside service. The family was upset and angry at the deceased. The deceased had made it clear he did not want any kind of a service or visitation. His family argued, even pleaded with him but he refused to change his mind.

Now, on this cold day, they not only felt anger toward the deceased, they also felt guilty for not doing what he had wanted. Sadly, the deceased refused to take into consideration what his family wanted, or more importantly *needed*.

Many obituaries indicate that there will be no service "per the individual's request".

What is a family to do?

Attending a class on death, the professor made the most profound statement. "*All promises are binding unto death.*" Remember, even in our wedding vows we promise to be faithful separated by death.

What do we do when our loved one is dying and the plans you have made with that person are all of a sudden too much? What if we plan to cremate and then when the time comes you realize you can't bear to cremate? What if you make promises to not have a service and then after the death you realize that you need a visitation and a funeral service?

Make your wishes known to your family. What would you like for a funeral service? Where would you like to be buried or have the ashes scattered? Some preparation will be a gift to your family as they struggle with their grief. At the same invite them to do what they need to do as they say their final goodbyes. And always as Christians, invite them to celebrate the promise of the resurrection in Christ.

Pastor Kim

Peace Lutheran Church Council Meeting February 7, 2024

- Present: Marcia DeBuhr, Pastor Gus, Don Berg, Gary Schumacher, Dennis Voigts, SueAnn Sullivan, Beau Buchs, Becky Fritz. Absent: Shari Wedig, Maryellen Engelke
- Opening Devotions Pastor Gus led the devotions
- Adoption of Agenda
- Review of Minutes
No changes made, and Don Berg made a motion to approve the agenda and previous minutes. Dennis Voigts seconded it and motion carried.
- Pastor's Report
There are upcoming weddings and baptisms planned, discussion regarding soup suppers and times. The first Wednesday of Lent Ash Wed on 2/14 will be held in Cuba City at Faith, there is no soup supper that evening, just service at 6:30. Alternate weeks between Peace and Faith. Faith soup supper will be 5-6:15 with worship at 6:30. Peace soup supper is from 5:30-6:15 with worship at 6:30.

Becky Fritz made a motion to approve the Pastors Report and was seconded by Don Berg, and motion carried.

- Treasurer's Report

Balance	48,188.25
Bills	7,207.09
New balance	40,981.16
Average giving	1,246.50
Reg Savings	20,193.06
Maintenance savings	3,946.70

Dennis Voigts made a motion to approve the Treasurers Report, seconded by Don Berg and motion carried.

- Committee Reports

Property

Light in elevator to be fixed by Chip McNett

Report regarding fixing of stained glass windows repair

it was second bid and less than previous quote

it is much needed for upcoming years

it was decided to get references and then decide on a future meeting and congregation vote

Elevator was inspected on Monday and is good for another year

As a friendly reminder- please remember to shut off all lights when leaving church

Stewardship- has decided to reach out to school to see if any need for help with Easter

Unfinished Business

- Church Opening Volunteers

- Lent/Holy Week/Easter

Beau Buchs made a motion to have the Easter service at 8 a.m. with breakfast to follow, and seconded by Dennis Voigts, motion carried.

- Pastor Gus will obtain, purchase and donate Palms for Easter Sunday

- Discussion held for Easter flowers in church and would be daisies on March 31. They would need to be ordered by March 8 and forms will be in the church bulletins.

Don Berg made a motion for the congregation to be able to order flowers for \$20 and was seconded by Becky Fritz, motion carried.

New Business

- Microphone System

There is a need for a new microphone system and a quote was obtained from Lifeline. The existing sound system was through Lifeline in 2005. The cost for 2 wireless headsets with installation is \$2,325. Discussion held to obtain warranty info and pricing of just 1 microphone.

- Refrigerator

Altar Guild requested a small refrigerator in the sacristy for juice and bread. Beau Buchs made a motion to approve a refrigerator and Gary Schumacher seconded, motion carried.

- Church Website

Don Berg is working on updating documents and church web page

- Closing Prayer by Pastor Gus

- Meeting was adjourned by Gary Schumacher and seconded by Dennis Voigts, motion carried.

Submitted by SueAnn Sullivan

Peace Lutheran Church Council
March 13, 2024

- Present: Pastor Gus, Marcia DeBuhr, Gary Schumacher, Dennis Voigts, SueAnn Sullivan, Beau Buchs, Becky Fritz, Maryellen Engelke. Absent: Shari Wedig, Don Berg
- Opening Devotions Pastor Gus led the devotions
- Adoption of Agenda
Add review computer virus protection and the water faucet leaking
Motion made to accept the additions and to approve the agenda by Gary Schumacher and seconded by Beau Buchs, motion carried.
- Review of Minutes
No changes to last month's minutes. Beau Buchs made a motion to accept the minutes and was seconded by Becky Fritz, motion carried.
- Pastor's Report
Pastor discussed the Synod Assembly is May 17/18 in Janesville. Pastor Kim won't be going and will cover services for him. Pastor reviewed Easter dates, education, baptisms and weddings and confirmation. Pastor's report was accepted by Dennis Voigts and seconded by Gary Schumacher, motion carried.
- Treasurers Report

Balance	52,098.92
Bills	4,421.51
Balance	47,677.41
Savings	20,196.74
Maintenance	3,947.42
Avg giving	1,689.33

Beau Buchs made a motion to approve the Treasurers Report, seconded by Dennis Voigts, motion carried.
- Committee Reports
Stewardship - has offered to help the school with the Easter Bunny hunt
Property - elevator light has been fixed
AED battery has been replaced
Water faucet in sacristy need to be looked at as is leaking
Stained glass referrals obtained

Unfinished Business

- Church Opening - please check candles are out and check offering plate
- Website - Don Berg continues to work on it and update (update email)
- Microphones - 2 purchased Huge Thank You to the Memorial Group for this!
- Holy Week - Thursday is Faith, Fri/Sat is Peace Discussed putting on sign out front
- Easter Breakfast will be after church - there will be a sign up in the narthex
- Synod Assembly - Pastor will be going in May
- Christmas display - will add a few more things for next year
- Fridge in Sacristy - Many Thanks to Mary Bahr for your donation

New Business

- Lawn Mowing - Ian/Aiden Austin - Gary will ask
- Computer Virus Protection \$49.95/year
- Beau made a motion to approve the renewal of the Webfoot virus protection, through Applied Micro Platteville, seconded by Becky Fritz, motion carried
- Closing Prayer by Pastor Gus
- Meeting adjourned by Gary Schumacher and seconded by Pastor, motion carried.

Submitted by SueAnn Sullivan

Peace Lutheran Church
 346 S. Mound Ave., PO Box 57
 Belmont, WI 53510

May 2024

Website: www.plcbelmont.org
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 608-762-5146 (Church)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00-12:30 Pastor Gus Office Hours	2 10:00-12:30 Pastor Gus Office Hours	3 9:00-12:00 Office Open	4 5:00 Worship/HC
5 9:30 Worship/HC	6 Office Closed	7 9:00-12:00 Office Open	8 10:00-12:30 Pastor Gus Office Hours 7:30 Council Meeting	9 9:00 Sewing Group 10:00-12:30 Pastor Gus Office Hours	10 9:00-12:00 Office Open	11 5:00 Worship/HC
12 9:30 Worship/HC	13 Office Closed	14 9:00-12:00 Office Open	15 10:00-12:30 Pastor Gus Office Hours	16 10:00-12:30 Pastor Gus Office Hours	17 9:00-12:00 Office Open	18 5:00 Worship/HC
19 7:30-12:00 EMT Pancake Breakfast 9:30 Worship/HC	20 Office Closed	21 9:00-12:00 Office Open	22 10:00-12:30 Pastor Gus Office Hours	23 10:00-12:30 Pastor Gus Office Hours	24 9:00-12:00 Office Open 7:00 High School Graduation	25 5:00 Worship/HC
26 9:30 Worship/HC	27 Memorial Day Office Closed	28 9:00-12:00 Office Open	29 10:00-12:30 Pastor Gus Office Hours	30 10:00-12:30 Pastor Gus Office Hours	31 9:00-12:00 Office Open	June 1 2:00 Wedding 5:00 Worship/HC