

Peace Lutheran Church

Volume 34 No. 7

July 2021



CELEBRATING OUR FREEDOM

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”³³ They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free?’”³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the Son remains forever.³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. John 8:31-36

Freedom. A word that is spoken often. This month, I am reminded of the freedom that I have in the United States of America. Freedom that is often taken for granted or simply assumed. I think of the freedom of speech, the freedom of religion, or the freedom to freely assemble; these are not enjoyed worldwide. Yet, in this republic, these freedoms are ours as citizens of this nation.

Freedom. Came at a price. Much blood has been spilled for the sake of freedom. Our freedom has been tested from within and from outside of our nation. I am extremely thankful for all who have served in the Armed Forces. In my dad's family, he and all his brothers served. What an example to have demonstrated. Our Armed Forces not only protect our freedom but also have stood to protect and/or to provide freedom for others.

Freedom. As a citizen of God's kingdom, the Church, I am to obey the State. The State or government is a house of authority that God has established for my (our) own good. To not obey is to disobey God. As a Christian, it is our responsibility to pray for all who are elected and/or appointed leaders. It is also our obligation to hold them accountable.

Freedom. Despite this gift, there are still many who do not enjoy its fullness. There have been many abuses inflicted on the citizens of this nation. I still struggle with the fact that the very framers of our Constitution owned slaves. Despite the Emancipation Act, all men (and women) are treated equally. How tragic that Japanese Americans – citizens of this nation – were placed in camps. These are realities that still face us.

Impressed on my heart was to hear the testimony of the Tuskegee Airmen, who, when coming home, were once again returned to segregation despite being some of the most talented and sought after pilots in the European theater during WWII.

Unfortunately, abuse of freedom is a reality. It is the duty of Christians to ensure freedom for all.

Freedom. As much as I celebrate the freedom in this nation, there is an even greater freedom that has been given to me. That is the freedom afforded me as a child of God.

Like the freedom of this nation, freedom as a Christian came at a price – the spilled blood of our Lord and Savior. As the above passage teaches, we all were at one time slaves – dead and hell-bound. It is our relationship to Jesus – Who is the Way, Truth, and Life – a faith relationship by God's making; that gives us sonship, and therefore freedom.

This freedom, like that which we enjoy in our nation, has great benefits. In this freedom brought to us is the forgiveness of sins, assurance of life everlasting, the strengthening of faith, and finally peace.

(Continued on page 2)

But it also can be abused. Deliberate sin and unconfessed sin again make a child of God a slave.

Unlike the freedom enjoyed in our beloved nation here on earth, the freedom we enjoy in Jesus is eternal. Frankly, the freedom we have as citizens of God's kingdom empowers us to enjoy the freedom we have as citizens of the State.

As you celebrate the 4th of July, contemplate the freedoms that you have – both Church and State are gifts established by God.

To God be the glory!

Pastor Schroeder



Reading The Bible with Your Ears

Would you rather hear someone give a speech or read a transcript of it? I think most of us would rather hear a speech, and here's why. Oral communication tends to be more effective than written because it involves gestures, movement, rhythm, rhyme, changes in tone, and inflection that provide meaning and keep the hearer interested. Written words may be more precise, but spoken words have a more powerful effect.

In short, spoken words can move you in a way that written words cannot. A message delivered by a voice is more powerful than a written one. Think about this: When God communicated with the Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, He spoke.

Moses gathered the Israelites at the foot of Mount Sinai so that he could speak God's Word to them. The spoken, vocalized word is the original and essential form of the Gospel.

Jesus went throughout Galilee proclaiming the good news, "The time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news." God's word was spoken before it was written, and it was written in order to be spoken. The four gospels were passed around from house to house, place to place, to be read aloud in early Christian worship services.

The Apostle Paul wrote his letters so that they might be read aloud in the churches. God communicates with us through the ear rather than the eye. The God of the Bible is one who speaks. Seeing is reserved for the life to come, not for this life. The Apostle Paul wrote, "Now we see through a glass, darkly, but then face to face."

Again, Paul has written, "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

God can speak to you any way He wants, but ordinarily, He will speak to you through those whom he has called and sent. Spiritual growth and maturity come through the ear. Be thankful for the written word of God, but do not use the written word as an excuse to ignore the preached word. I have heard others say, "I don't have to attend worship services because I can always read my Bible at home."

Having a Bible at home is no guarantee that you will read it, and if you read it, you will learn that we are called to meet together.

As some of our own people and the OAFC group that visited us a few weeks ago can tell you, many of the people we surveyed said they had a Bible in their homes, yet many of them did NOT know how they might get to heaven at the end of their life. Only a few of those we met said that they know they will go to heaven because of what Jesus has done for them in dying on the cross that their sin may be forgiven, and rising on Easter morning that they would have His promise of resurrection to

(Continued on page 3)

eternal life.

No one is to be a stay-at-home Christian unless he or she is unable to attend, and then we go to them to speak God's word.

The Bible is a necessary record of what God has said, but the written word should always lead us into fellowship and discussions with others so that we encounter the word that is spoken. The written word of God is the measuring rod we use to guide our preaching and to determine the legitimacy of the preaching we hear.

Many of our biblical ancestors believed in God without any script. They encountered the word of God by means of a voice, either directly from heaven or, more commonly, through a called individual.

To encounter the word of God in its fullness, hear it proclaimed in a sermon, or read aloud in a worship service or Bible study. BibleGateway.com contains many translations of the Bible, which you can hear read aloud through your phone or computer speakers.

As author Eugene Peterson has noted, "There are still communities that get along without any written language, but none that survive without speech." Speech is that important.

Similarly, while the written word of God by itself has the power to convert and transform individuals, neither that individual nor the Christian community cannot survive without the spoken word.

The Bible is widely available and should be studied daily, but it is better to read it aloud and hear it proclaimed in a public setting.

By God's grace, that living voice will travel from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life. Long ago, God spoke through the Prophet Isaiah, "My word that goes forth from my mouth, it will not return to me empty, but it will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

To God, Alone Be All Glory! Amen.

Pastor Josiah J. Fitch

Already!?!?

It's true, the Fitch clan joined the local family of Peace a year ago! My family and I rejoice that our Lord called us here! And I love that as we continue setting masks aside, I get to continue to connect the many names of people at Peace with their faces.

Leaving a beloved congregation for new shores is hard. Covid made it feel at times impossible. But we arrived at PEACEful shores, and very much felt the loving arms of Jesus receiving us through the congregation at Peace.

I believe that the Lord has blessed our work together in ministry here in Neenah over this passed (difficult to say the least) year. My prayer for this next year of ministry is: That our Lord and Savior would bind us as a congregation together as we CELEBRATE HIS LOVE; That our Risen Lord would use us to bless the world around us here where He has planted us, as we REACH OUT with His Word of Life; and that He bless and keep us as we SERVE JESUS with gladness. Together in Christ, Amen. Pastor Fitch & Family

LUTHERAN WITNESS subscription time is here again. Cost is **\$15.96/year**. See the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hallway for the sign-up sheet and the envelopes. Make all checks out to Peace, use a provided envelope and drop them in the offering or bring them in to the church office.

Be sure to put your name and address on the sign-up sheet!



Save the Date! Hats off to YOU!

Female teen confirmands, high school grads, young women going off to college, and young mothers at Peace.

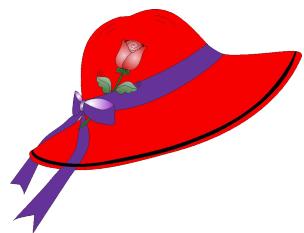


We're celebrating all of you, as shining stars.

Mothers bring your teen or younger generation daughters.
How many generations will come to honor these shining stars?



August 9th from 5:30 - 7:30 pm at Memorial Park, 131 Tullar Road in Neenah
RSVP to attend by August 1, 2021 to Barb K. @ 720-9689



Wear a hat that tells your story.



4th of July Pancake Breakfast

Where: Peace Lutheran Church
1228 S. Park Ave Neenah

When: July 4th

Time: 10 a.m.– 12:30 p.m.

Join us at Peace Lutheran Church

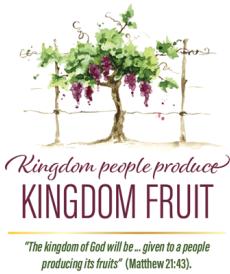
(Previously held at Community Fest, Riverside Park) for a good old fashioned pancake breakfast! Included with your breakfast is a choice of plain, chocolate chips or blueberry pancakes, sausage, a milk/juice and bottomless coffee.



2021 VBS Update: We had a wonderfully blessed VBS week that went very well! We were able to raise \$836.06 for our Mission U.S. project. A fun time was had last week by 101 kids plus 27 youth and adults. Thank you to all those who donated food and helped in anyway. The kids had a blast learning about

Special thanks to our Sunday School Superintendent Betsy Ehlert who organized this VBS.

Thank you to all the volunteers: Kris Belongia, Barb Bergner, Jasmine & Cinnamon Brown, Jacen Cornwell, Don & Judy Daley, Samuel & Preston Davies, Emily, Kristina & Kathy & Tom Ehlert, Judy Evans, Pastor Josiah & Ashley Fitch, Dylan & Jackson Florek, Pastor GeRue, Ben Ginnow, Emily Glasheen, Marilyn Henneman, Abby Dan, Paige, Isaac & Julia Hoelzel, Jim & Donna Hoelzel, Tom & Monica Jeske, Sean, Nathan & Luke Johnson, Barb Kaun, Lori Kleinschmidt, Brianna, Jamarion, & Ladarius Lunde, Landon McQuillan, Gretta Meixl, Ella Meunier, Amber Miller, Taylor Muth, Kaileigh, Keira & Kaelin Nickel, Sami Patschke, Kayla & Toni Pierce, Alison Pelger, Todd Oppermann, Paul & Jenine Rosnow, Amanda & Desi Sattler, Grace Schmall, Eileen Schmidt, Pastor Schroeder, LuAnn Thorson, Santy Jr., Jaylen & Vahn Vongkhamsaeng, Caitlin Vanden Bloomer, Rod & Anne Wilson, Marlene Weisshahn, Sharon Wolf, Carol Zuberbier, and all others who helped out in anyway.



Mission Moment- Bethany Asaba Delta State Nigeria. A grant of \$12,000 has been requested so that the church building will be completed. This project will allow people a place to worship and hear about God's great love for us.

Mite Collection July 10 and 11. The Mission Mites continue to fund efforts to spread the Good News of God and our salvation. Your contributions assist with these projects locally, across the US, and around the world.

Future LWML Fellowship Events.

July 17- "Fruits of the Spirit- Let's Paint" will be the theme for this month's Peace Mission Guild. Mark your calendars for Saturday at 1:00 pm in the Peace Fellowship Hall. Watch the bulletin for more details.

August 9- "Hats off to You" will be the theme of this month's Peace Mission Guild event. We encourage the young women of Peace to attend so that we may join together as sisters and celebrate their importance. Join us at Memorial Park on Tullar Road in Neenah, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm.

Eileen Schmidt 7-7



Moving forward:

The CDC has updated the guidelines for the wearing of masks. The Board of Elders has reviewed the guidelines and modified our mask policy accordingly as follows:

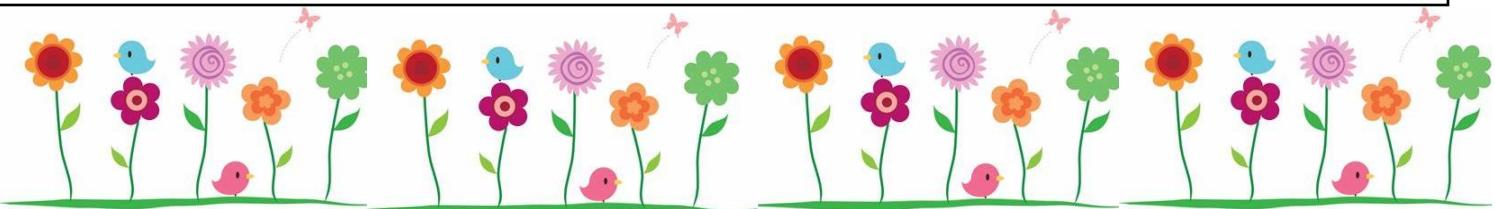
- ✓ Beginning in July, there will be no changes in the Saturday evening services. "At the Rail" communion will be reinstated for the Sunday services. All Pews will be available. No social distancing required.
- ✓ Beginning in August, masks do not have to be worn for people fully vaccinated as defined by the CDC. Mask are optional for those who have not been vaccinated. "At the Rail" communion will be reinstated for Saturday evening services.
- ✓ Beginning in September (after Labor Day), Common Cup will be reinstated.
- ✓ The Elders and Pastors will review these policies monthly. Changes will be made as necessary.

Don McDermott

Chairman, Board of Elders



THANK YOU to everyone who donated items, donated doughnuts and juice, provided a trunk, helped with set-up or clean-up, cashiered, and helped organize Treasures in the Trunk! Over \$1100 was raised. It was a great day on the front lawn of church, and it was great to see our church family work together. SPECIAL THANKS to Judy Daley and the Board of Evangelism for providing nice, cold water on a hot day! THANKS also to Grace for putting announcements in church material and online. The Board of Social Ministry



ODDS and ENDS

TUESDAY MORNING MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE CLASS will resume on Tuesday, July 6.

We meet at Four Seasons on Commercial in Neenah at 7 a.m. We will begin a new study entitled, "Equipped." Come join and enjoy fellowship over breakfast (on your own) and the study of God's Word.

WELCOME, PASTOR FITCH AND FAMILY! This was the greeting that was shared a year ago when Pastor Fitch and his family became members of our church family. It is the hope that the Lord will continue to bless the ministry of Pastor Fitch among us and that he and his family will be blessed as members of our family at Peace.

CELEBRATING THE MINISTRY TO THE ARMED FORCES

On Saturday, July 3, & Sunday, July 4th we will be celebrating the Ministry to the Armed Forces. This is a branch of ministry of the LCMS. We will recognize the freedoms that God has blessed us within this nation, our veterans and those who are currently serving in the Armed Forces, members and those connected to our congregation. This service will feature patriotic hymns and songs.

There will only be one service on Sunday, July 4 at 9:00 A.M. Following the service will be a Pancake Breakfast. Proceeds will benefit our Youth Ministry (anticipating the 2022 LCMS National Youth Gathering) and the Scholarship Fund (Benefiting those enrolled in Lutheran schools and those preparing for Professional Church work). Consider inviting family and friends!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC After having had to cancel our church picnic last summer, we will be having our Church Picnic on Sunday, August 22. More details to come in the August newsletter.

RETURN OF THE HYMNALS AND SONGBOOKS Beginning in July, we will reinstate the use of the hymnals and songbooks. Since we began "in-person" worship on Memorial Day weekend in 2020, all of the service, hymns, and songs were printed out completely. As a result, our paper usage has been "over the top." We will resume the printing out the service and large print bulletin as was common prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

GIVING THANKSGIVING... Thank you to all who have supported Lynne and I throughout her medical issues and surgery, as well as the death of her stepmom. The cards, prayers, gifts, memorials, and meals were gratefully received. May God richly bless you for your acts of compassion. Pastor and Lynne

VITAL STATISTICS

Number of Baptized Souls: 459 Number of Confirmed Souls: 382 Number of Families: 234

Transferred In:

Beth Wohlrabe
Trinity, Menasha

Dawn Johnson
Prince of Peace Carrollton, TX

Pastor David & Linda Jensen
Our Savior Lutheran Church
Baraboo

Brought into membership by Profession of Faith

Rebecca Thomas and Ian
First United Methodist Neenah

Compassion Garden Volunteers Needed:

The garden has been planted and it won't be long before we should consider harvesting.



The Compassion Garden is harvested the first and third weeks of the month by Peace members for delivery to our homebound, local food pantries, and others in need. On the second and fourth weeks, Trinity in Menasha harvests for their food pantry.

If you are interested in helping with this project during the months of July and August, please see the sign-up sheet located in the hall or call Sue Hardwick 920-574-7662.



Of the Word

“...for richer or for poorer.” It was easy to say at the wedding, but it is sometimes hard to live out in real life. He wants to save for the future; she wants to wear the latest fashions. She’s thinking about college for the kids; he’s eyeing a new boat. How will you decide who “wins”? Start by setting priorities for how your money is to be spent before these questions arise, making sure the marriage is the winner!

Talk through the issues. Does God care how we spend our money? What does it mean to be stewards of what He has given us? How can we use our money to help others and for our own enjoyment? Does this purchase meet our family’s short-term or long-term goals? Do we agree that this is a wise use of our money?

Remember, what you spend your money on is not nearly as important as why you spend it. Ask God for guidance in your money matters.

In the Word

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Colossians 3:17).

Walking with my Lord

Dear Lord, help us to be good stewards of Your gifts so that together we can enjoy and share the blessings You give. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Mustard Seed: With this Ring. Authors: Rev. Wes and Deaconess Sonja Baumeister. 23/28 ©2008 Lutheran Women's Missionary League, 801 Seminary Place Ste. L010, St. Louis, MO 63105.
www.lwml.org

Everyday Evangelism.

July 3 & 4. The Board of Evangelism continues to encourage people to “display” and share their faith. During this weekend, the Board of Evangelism will be handing out a small gift, which allows you to proudly show your faith and patriotic spirit.

July 17 – Peace at the Farmer’s Market, Neenah. Come browse the Farmers Market at Shattuck Park, and stop by the Peace booth, 8:00 am – noon. We will enjoy the Puppets, games, and prizes, as we reach out, serve Jesus and celebrate His love. If you would like to provide some additional entertainment or donations, please contact Judy Daley, 414-418-8101.



AS SURE AS SUNDAY SCHOOL IS DONE FOR THIS YEAR, WE ARE ALREADY BEGINNING OUR PLANNING FOR THIS FALL!

Have you EVER thought that you might enjoy teaching our children about their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ? Please consider doing so this fall! Before you know it, the sign-up sheet will be posted with all the positions available for the 2021-2022 Sunday School year. Pick your favorite position, and be sure to sign up. You won’t regret that you did! Do you have questions about what may be required of you? Please contact our Sunday School Superintendent Betsy Ehlert, Pastor Fitch, or Ryan Porter (Chairman of our Bd. of Education). God bless you as you consider this most important job of assisting our Peace Families by teaching our children about Jesus!

Lutheran School Scholarships for 2021-2022 Applications for Lutheran School Scholarships are available now for all children attending Lutheran Grade and High School and for those students attending LCMS-Concordia Universities. All scholarship applications are due in the church office by July 1st, 2021. Scholarships will be awarded at the August Meeting of the Board of Education. Questions? Contact Pastor Fitch or Ryan Porter (Bd. Of Ed. Chair).

Peace Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod

1228 S. Park Avenue

Neenah, WI 54956-4252

(920) 725-0510

Rev. Ricky P. Schroeder

Pastor

Rev. Josiah Fitch

Associate Pastor



Peace Lutheran Church

NEENAH, WISCONSIN—LCMS

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Reaching Out . . . Serving Jesus . . . Celebrating His Love



FAX
(920) 725-0625

e-mails

pastor@peaceneenah.com
assocpastor@peaceneenah.com

Web site:
www.peaceneenah.com

Worship Services

Sat. 5:00 p.m.

Sun. 8:00 a.m.

10:45 a.m.

Bible Study/Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Sundays

***The Church Office will be closed
Monday, July 5, 2021***