

# Peace Lutheran Church

Volume 34 No. 9

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## WHEN THINGS JUST DON'T MAKE SENSE ROMANS 11:33-36

<sup>33</sup> Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! <sup>34</sup> “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” <sup>35</sup> “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” <sup>36</sup> For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

The above verses are Paul’s last words on a mystery that perplexed him – “How could the Jews reject that Jesus was the Christ?” I would suggest that you read chapters 9-11 which contains his entire lament.

In essence, how could the chosen people of God – the descendants of Abraham – Old Testament Israel – eventually known as the Jews, through whom the promised Messiah (Christ) would come from – reject Him? This was very hard for St. Paul to reason in His own mind. Remember that he, himself was a Jew. And not just an ordinary Jew! He was a very zealous Pharisee who observed the stoning of Stephen and persecutor of Christians.

His sadness is well expressed, and he comes to the conclusion that He must let the mystery up to Almighty God in His providence. It always was his desire that through the proclamation of the Gospel that by hearing they might come to believe – to confess with their lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in their heart that Jesus was raised from the dead.

Just as Paul wrestled with such a mystery, we are confronted with many mysteries. We do need to hear Paul’s words above. God does not need to explain Himself, nor do we need to give an answer. Where He does not speak clearly to answer mysteries, we are simply called to trust.

I am well aware of many Jews have heard the Gospel and have come to believe in Jesus. Praise Him for His work!

This passage has at times come to the forefront of my mind and has even been the text for funeral sermons. I am reminded of such a time when an adolescent male of a former parish died tragically in a car accident.

I had watched this young man grow up and had the joy of confirming him. I hadn’t seen him all too often while he was in high school. In his senior year, it seemed that things were finally coming together for him. He was on a positive upward trajectory. He was enjoying his last year in school and experiencing good grades. He was racing cars, following in the footsteps of his dad, and seemingly successful.

He was once again making his way back into church. He had a sweetheart as well.

One late night, after spending time with his friends, he was on his way home. He was extremely tired and had asked permission to stay overnight with his buddy but was refused as the next day there was school. It would be best that he just went home. On his way home, he fell asleep at the wheel and, well, he died in the car crash. He was less than a mile away from his home.

Needless to say, that the days that followed, there was a lot of consternation. The question that was asked? Why did God allow such a thing to have happened?? It just didn't make sense!!! The mystery could not be answered. All that could be spoken was the words and promises that flow from the Gospel, which was his from his baptism.

I lamented with the family but could not answer their question and had to resolve that I could not answer for God.

I share this with you on account of all this business connected with COVID-19. Just recently, I was asked, "How could God allow such a disease – such a horrible disease come into vogue and all the consternation that it has caused.

My response was two-fold... First, disease does not come from God. It is a result of sin and death having come into this world on account of man's disobedience. Second, God takes no pleasure even in the suffering of the wicked. Disease, trial, tribulation, and death are tools that almighty God allows to draw us closer to Him. As for anything else, I leave to the Will and Mind of God – which is not always reasonable. Our will, our minds are not always in concert with His. So, it is a mystery.

The rollercoaster of emotions that I have experienced during these last several months has not been a thrill. To be told that I am not doing enough and doing too much has not helped. I, along with Pastor Fitch and the Elders, do what we think is best for the sake of the sheep, the flock that we are charged to oversee.

I have had to resolve to be in God's Word, seek the Spirit's guidance, and make decisions. What is God up to? I can't say that He has drawn me into His mind. It remains a mystery. All I can do is cling to Him.

I also find great solace in many hymns that are in my hymnal. Such examples are... "Peace Like a River," "Precious Lord, Take My Hand," "I Walk in Danger All the Way," "Jesus, Savior. Pilot Me" and "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

Mysteries... Even when God doesn't make sense, He will always be present on this side of heaven. Therefore, all that I can really do is trust and look forward to the Day of the Lord. My concluding prayer? "Come, Lord Jesus. Come quickly!"

To God be the glory!

***Pastor Schroeder***



## Inviting Someone to Church - 2 Approaches I (Pr. Fitch) have Learned/Had Success With

**Approach #1 – When you're not sure whether they attend a church.**  
Lead with this simple question.

*I was wondering, do you go to church anywhere?*

If they answer yes, then the follow-up conversation is easy.

*That's great! So happy to hear you have a church home. What church do you attend?*

This approach works because it celebrates the church they're connected to and shows them you're not trying to recruit them to your church.

If they answer no, you can follow up with an invite.

*Well, if you're ever looking for a great place to go, I go to **Peace Lutheran Church** and would love to see you there!*

This language is simple, casual, and friendly in tone. It doesn't assume they're looking for a church. It leaves the decision up to them.

If they don't ask a follow-up question or engage further, you'll want to leave the conversation at that.

If they ask a question or share a bit of their faith journey, it's a good sign they're open to hearing more.

Take the opportunity to share more about your church: why you love it, how God's used it in your life, give them an invite card, etc.

**Approach #2 – When you know someone who doesn't attend a church.**

Try leading with this question:

*I'm curious – did you ever go to church when you were growing up?*

This question is an easy way to start a conversation, but the real value is learning more about a person's background with church, faith, and Christianity; The key with this question is how you follow up.

There could be many reasons why someone doesn't currently attend a church. Maybe they had a bad experience growing up or have been hurt by people. Maybe they've always wanted to attend but never made it a priority.

Whatever the reason, you're trying to understand why. So don't be afraid to ask follow-up questions.

*Have you ever thought about **attending a church** (again)?*

*If you don't mind me asking, how come you don't see yourself going to church?*

*If it's not too personal a question, what was the bad experience you had?*

The answers to these questions will help you tailor a more personal invite at the right time. Use what you learn and ask God for wisdom on how best to invite them to church. That could be

*(Continued on page 4)*

during this conversation or another time.

Remember, you don't have to invite people to church the very first time you talk to them. That can be something you work toward.

### **How do I avoid making a person feel judged or uncomfortable?**

It's all in the approach.

Notice the "posture" the conversation starters above take. They're casual and friendly. They don't assume anything and don't force any type of answer. Pay attention to the conversation and engage as much or as little as you feel the other person is comfortable with.

That's the key to inviting someone (or having a conversation about faith) without the person feeling judged or uncomfortable.

And don't forget to always invite with kindness.

How you end the conversation will be how they remember your invite. So be kind, gracious, and understanding no matter the response.

### **What if I get rejected?**

You might be, but don't let it discourage you. It's not the end of the world, and it's not personal.

A "no thanks" won't negatively impact your life. But a "yes" could change someone's life forever. Press through any fears of rejection and keep inviting! You'll never get a "yes" if you never ask.

Another common fear is getting a negative reaction.

In my experience, almost everyone will accept your invite graciously whether they're interested or not.

As you invite people to church, you'll find most of your fears are not reality. Rejection isn't as bad as you think. People generally avoid confrontation. Since you approach them with kindness & patience, they're not going to be hateful toward or feel judged by you.

### **Now let's play the what-if game.**

- What if they say yes?

What if they experience authentic community and love for the first time?

- What if, in coming to church, their faith is renewed, and they have hope in Christ?

What if they find their identity in Christ and walk in greater faith in Him and love toward others?

God wants to use you, and it is often through a simple invite.

We seek to plant the seed/tend to what has been planted.

*"What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." 1 Corinthians 3:5-6 ESV (emphasis added)*

Who can you invite this month or even this week?

Hymn of the month

September Hymn of the Month: The hymn of the month for September is LSB749, "There Is a Balm in Gilead."

"There is a Balm in Gilead"

The term "Balm in Gilead" can be found in the Old Testament book of Jeremiah. In the eighth chapter and 22 verse, Jeremiah asks in reference to the Babylonian captivity of the Israelites, "Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is there no healing for the wounds of God's people?"

Many know this spiritual as a slave song, but the story behind the song takes us to a hymn written in 1779 by John Newton. Here he takes the text of Jeremiah and turns it into a statement complete with an exclamation, "There is a Balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole; there's power enough in heaven to cure the sin-sick soul!"

This hymn is another proclamation of the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. The balm of Gilead is the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus, shed for us to cure our "sin-sick souls." We see more Old Testament relevance in the verses of the song. Many of the prophets complained about their effectiveness. They worried that their work was in vain or that they did not have the words to speak. The verses of this hymn harken to spread the message through the words of Jesus. This is most clearly shown in verse two with the words, "You can tell the love of Jesus, and say he died for all."

Go forth and share the message of Jesus! Tell everyone that there is a cure for their souls, the Balm of Gilead.



"THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS AND KINDNESS AFTER MY RECENT KNEE SURGERY. HEALING IS GOING WELL. ALSO THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO REMEMBERED MY BROTHER, CARL, IN PRAYERS. THE LORD IS TRULY WATCHING OVER HIM AND IT APPEARS THAT HE WILL INDEED BE WELL AGAIN AND ABLE TO CELEBRATE HIS 95TH BIRTHDAY. Jane Sugden

**"TIMELESS TREASURES" Christmas Bazaar.**

I am confident that we will have a Christmas bazaar this year. It may look the same as last year, or it may have a few changes.

The date is Saturday, December 4th; put it on your calendar.

Our bazaar planning committee will start having regular meetings in September. If you have an interest or desire to join our team and help plan and organize this great church fundraising event, please see Kris Belongia or call 920-233-3999 for more information. Some areas we address and have leaders for are cookie sales, children's room, baked and canned good sales, luncheon food and service, craft project day, cashiering, advertising, logistics to get us all put together for the day of the bazaar, etc., etc. YOU, the congregation, are what make this event a success every year.

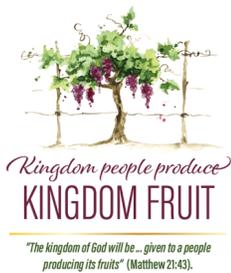
So, I ask that you start praying for God's support as we move forward. I also challenge you to start making your crafts, this is a great time to start, and there are only 3 months left, and we will need lots and lots of items. Thanks to all of you! Watch for updated news about the bazaar in future bulletins and newsletters.

Thank you for your support. Kris Belongia and the Bazaar Planning Committee

**SAVE THE DATE.....TRUNK OR TREAT**

**Saturday, October 30th after church.....**





**Monday, September 13, Peace Mission Guild.** Women of Peace, join us as at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall, we begin our journey to the theme, "Hold fast to the Word... Reach out to the World." This month, there will be a Bible study, "Do...Love...Walk", which focuses on doing justice with loving-kindness. We will enjoy fellowship as we complete a fun service project.

**Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.** This grant for \$81,680 will be used to facilitate the healing ministry, which provides a life-giving impact in the lives of children, ages 10-18, who face abuse, neglect, and trauma. Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch is a Christ-centered residential treatment and educational center for children and their families.



Paulette Stecker 9/7  
Sue Ahlswede 9/27



**Feeling "Perky"? Sign up to host Coffee.** Coffee and fellowship are a great way to start your Sunday. Maybe you have a birthday, anniversary or special occasion that you would like to celebrate by hosting coffee. Sign up on the sheet at the coffee counter. If you are unsure how to use the coffee machines in the work room, contact Amanda Sattler, 920-277-3949, or just stop in at 7:30 any Sunday and someone will show you.

**September 26, Bible Translation Sunday.** Millions of people don't have the Bible in a language they understand. We will learn how Lutheran Bible Translators partner with individual organizations and language communities to put God's Word in their hands. We will have Roy Peterson as our guest preacher that weekend. We will have also have a video from our very own Amy Formella this weekend.

### VITAL STATISTICS

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

#### Transferred in

Dale & Hermi Krueger  
Shepherd of the Hills Greenville, WI

#### Funeral

Roger Miller August 7, 2021



**FOX CITIES MARATHON - Please note: On Sunday, Sept. 19th. the Marathon will be passing through the Fox Cities and finishing at Riverside Park. IT MAY AFFECT YOUR TRIP TO CHURCH that morning. Please plan on using an alternate route.**



# ODDS and ENDS



**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS** Classes are being conducted on Sundays following worship. We will resume our study on I & II Corinthians. As we are only a few chapters into I Corinthians (Lesson 4) newcomers would be welcomed. As has been the custom of the congregation, this class will not meet on Labor Day weekend.

**SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS** This class will resume on Saturday, September 18, at 8:30 A.M. We will continue our study on the Augsburg Confession. New members are welcome. Coffee available.

**Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study** will be postponed until September 14th.

**THE LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR (L.Y.N.) FUND** For many years, members of the congregation have been helping each other through the LYN Fund. This Fund was started many years ago as a vehicle to facilitate anonymous financial gifts from member to member. Not even the pastor knows who forwarded the gift. This is an excellent way of helping an individual or family in times of crisis. Envelopes with instructions can be found on the "Resource Ledge" in the narthex. This has been used often throughout the duration since its inception. If you have any further questions, please contact Pastor Schroeder.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR: ADULT INSTRUCTION CLASS FALL 2021** On Saturday, October 16, Adult Instruction Class will be offered. The class will be held from 8:30 A.M.-3:30 P.M., The course's title, is "Basic Bible Teachings: An Introduction to the Lutheran Faith. This is a one-day class.

Invited to attend are those who are seeking membership in the LCMS and the congregation, those who are curious as to what the LCMS believes, teaches, and confesses, and for those who would simply like to review the basic doctrines as drawn from the Holy Bible as believed, taught and confessed in the LCMS.

Coffee, lunch, and class materials will be offered at no cost to the participants. Please call the church office if you plan on attending by Monday, October 11. Pastor Schroeder will serve as the facilitator for this class.



**YEAH!** The **OWLS** have landed, and we're having a **HOOT!!!**

**YEAH OWLS**

**Y**(young) **E**(especially) **A**(at) **H**(heart) **O**(older) **W**(wiser) **L**(livelier) **S**(saints).

Our next get-together is Thursday, September 16, 2021. Coffee fellowship begins at 11:00 AM, with lunch served promptly at 11:30 AM. Because we have not been together for a year and a half, we will just have socializing for this month. Come and spend a couple of hours with your Christian Brothers and Sisters. Signup sheets will be in the Fellowship Hallway 2 weeks prior to the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Make sure to sign up. We want to see you there, and you can even bring a friend.



### Update on the Boiler Upgrade

At the November 2020, Voter’s Meeting approval was granted to secure a loan from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund specifically to cover expenses for roof repair on the Northside of the building and to replace the aged boiler system, one which was installed in the 1960s and is working at 60% efficiency and the other which was installed in 1996, with energy-efficient units.

Roof repairs have been completed. In April of 2021, a major campaign was initiated to raise \$55,000 toward the boiler upgrade, with thank offerings designated for a boiler upgrade or Foundations for the Future Fund. As of this writing, we have grown the Foundations for the Future Fund, which is designated for capital projects, to just over \$50,000. Because of shutdowns, delays, and pricing increases due to COVID, the final estimate on the boilers will exceed the amount received from the loan and giving by approximately \$15,000.

Acting in faith, the Church Council has approved moving forward with the boiler upgrade anticipating completion by November. The Board of Stewardship is confident that the generous giving of the past will continue to propel the balance in the Foundations for the Future Fund to meet this shortage and thank everyone for their prayerful giving.

*So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.*  
2 Corinthians 9:7 (NKJV)



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!

Rally day is September 12th. Sunday School starts that day (9:30-10:30) We are still in need of teachers and others to help throughout the year. Please prayerfully consider where you maybe able to help.

We also want to bring back the cupcake walk for Rally day. If anyone is willing to donate some cupcakes for that, please let Betsy Ehlert know.



**Puppets In Need of Helping Hands.** The puppets are ready to get back into the swing of sharing God’s Word and singing His praise. No previous experience is required, just a happy heart and a strong arm. If you are going into 5<sup>th</sup> grade through high school, we would love to have you join our puppet ministry. Watch for more details in the bulletin. Or contact Judy Daley, 414-418-8101.



MOPS is an international organization that exists to encourage, equip, and develop every mother to realize her potential as a woman, mother and leader in the name of Jesus Christ. Neenah MOPS will be meeting on **Tues., September 14th from 8:45 to 11 A.M.**



# Teach us to pray

In Luke 11:1-13 (NIV), Jesus teaches about prayer.

**Directions:** Add or subtract the letters indicated and unscramble the letters to form a new word, using hints from the passage. Then unscramble the circled letters to answer the question below.

party - t = P R A Y (v. 1)

lady + i = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 3)

drab + e = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 5)

rod + o = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 7)

bask - b = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 9)

keeps - p = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 9)

define - ee = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 9)

shift - t = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 11)

sneaky - y = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 11)

sift + g = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 13)



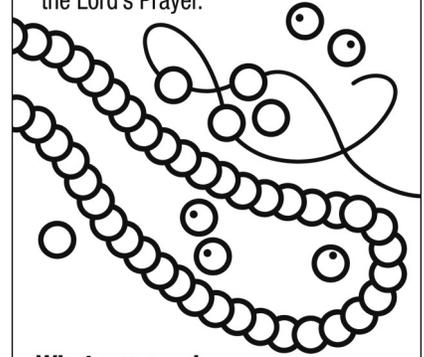
What will the Father give to those who ask of him?

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 13)

Answer: pray, daily, bread, door, ask, seek, find, fish, snake, gifts, Holy Spirit

# Prayer bracelet

Make this craft to help you remember the Lord's Prayer.



### What you need:

- Elastic string (12 inches)
- Colored beads (see below)
- Clear nail polish

### What you do:

1. Knot the string at one end. Add beads in this order: blue, white, gold, green, yellow, red, black, orange
2. Tie the ends so the bracelet fits your wrist. Place a dot of nail polish to secure the knot. Trim excess string.
3. As you pray, use the bead colors as reminders of Jesus' words (see Matthew 6:9-13):

- **blue** = the Father
- **white** = God's holiness
- **gold** = God's kingdom
- **green** = the earth
- **yellow** = wheat (bread)
- **red** = Christ's blood (forgiveness)
- **black** = temptation
- **orange** = God's power to deliver



## Back-to-school humor

What kind of school do you go to if you're ...  
... an ice cream man? Sundae school  
... a giant? High school  
... a surfer? Boarding school  
... King Arthur? Knight school

**Teacher:** What's the chemical formula for water?

**Student:** H-I-J-K-L-M-N-O

**Teacher:** What are you talking about?

**Student:** Yesterday you said it was H to O.

**Math teacher:** A person from LA drove toward New York at 250 miles per hour as a person from New York drove toward LA at 150 miles per hour. Where did they meet?

**Student:** In jail!

## Bones of the church

The "body" of a church has four kinds of bones:

1. The WISHbones are those folks who spend all their time wishing someone else would do all the work.
2. The JAWbones are those who do all the talking and very little else.
3. The KNUCKLEbones are those who knock everything anyone else tries to do.
4. The BACKbones are those who get under the load and get the work done.

What kind of bone are you?

## God's left hand

A 6-year-old and his grandma went for a walk one autumn day. "Look at the gorgeous leaves!" Grandma exclaimed. "Just think, God painted each one of them just for us!"

"Yep," said her grandson, "and he did it left-handed."

Perplexed, Grandma asked, "Why do you think God used his left hand to create all this beauty?"

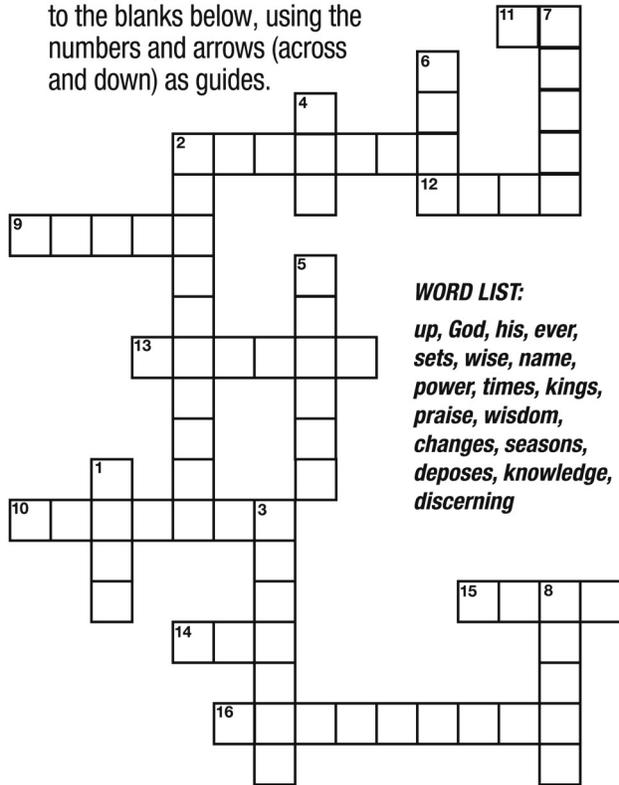
"Because," said the boy matter-of-factly, "we learned in Sunday school that Jesus sits on God's right one."

## Back-to-school humor

- Summer is over. Time to officially remember what day of the week it is!
- "Labor Day is a glorious holiday because your child will be going back to school the next day. It would have been called Independence Day, but that name was already taken." (Bill Dodds)
- Receiving new textbooks, one student to another: "Psst. How do you turn this thing on?"
- Parent: "What did you learn today?" Kindergartner: "Not enough. I have to go back tomorrow."

# Puzzle!

Fit these words from the book of Daniel into the squares. Then transfer them to the blanks below, using the numbers and arrows (across and down) as guides.



**WORD LIST:**

*up, God, his, ever, sets, wise, name, power, times, kings, praise, wisdom, changes, seasons, deposes, knowledge, discerning*

“ \_\_\_\_\_ be to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ . He \_\_\_\_\_  
 and \_\_\_\_\_ ; he \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
 them. He gives \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to  
 the \_\_\_\_\_ .” DANIEL 2:20-21

Answer: “Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.” Daniel 2:20-21



## GROWING generations

Honor your grandparents with a gift that all generations can enjoy.

**What you need:**

- Cups (various sizes)
- Pencil
- Family photos
- Scissors
- Colored paper
- Hot glue (and adult help)
- Clothespins
- A small potted tree or bush

**What you do:**

1. Use a cup to trace a circle around faces in the photos. Cut out the circles.
2. Cut larger circles out of paper. Glue each photo onto a paper circle.
3. Glue a clothespin to the back of each photo. Clip photos to the branches.
4. Present the gift to your grandparents, and tell them you’re glad to be in their family tree.

How many times in the Old Testament do people cross a body of water on dry ground?

- A. once
- B. twice
- C. three times
- D. four times

Answer: C (See Exodus 14; Joshua 3; 2 Kings 2.)



**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



The church office will be closed Monday, September 6th for Labor Day, we will be open normal office hours on Tuesday, September 7th.

*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

"What does Contemporary Worship mean to you?"

As many of you know, there is an exploratory committee that has been meeting once a month for the past few months. The purpose of this committee is to gauge the interest of having and possibly, ultimately, organizing a regular contemporary worship service. Part of our exploring is getting the congregation's "temperature" on the possibility of just such a worship.

Over the course of the next several weeks, members of this committee will be seeking out individuals and families for a short conversation about several questions. Some of these questions might be: What do you feel is the difference between traditional and contemporary? How would you define contemporary worship? In your past experience, what have been the positive and negative points of contemporary services?

Please be on the lookout for the following committee members (Kristina Ehlert, Sami Patschke, Megan Florek, Clare Hirssig Anna Lobermeier, Phil Nickolai, Don McDermott, Brian Hallman) If you see them and would like to talk, let them know. Otherwise, they will be around to hopefully see you. If you have any questions, concerns, or opinions; please contact Pastor Fitch at [assocpastor@peaceneenah.com](mailto:assocpastor@peaceneenah.com)