



Peace Lutheran Church

Volume 35 No. 3

March 2022

*From the
Pastor*



MINISTRY TO THE FUNCTIONALLY UNCHURCHED PART III: THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. **6** Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ² For he says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. II Corinthians 5:17-6:2

First, an update of the ongoing Ministry to the Functionally Unchurched. Letters have been sent out to members who live out of town. An arbitrary radius was set at approximately 30 miles. They have been given various options with a strong encouragement to seek a church home in their area where they can continue to grow in relationship with God and fellow believers.

In March, the Elders will have assigned themselves "Elder Groups." Because the number of Elders is reduced (sadly), a restructuring of Elder Groups is necessary. The Elders will be encouraged to reach out to those they are responsible for.

In May, the Elders will receive a list of the Functionally Unchurched. The list will be derived from the attendance cards. "Zero Attenders" in each of the Elder Groups will be first contacted by phone. In June, letters will be sent out to those who could not be contacted with options concerning their membership.

So why all this fuss? It is not healthy for members of the congregation to not be mutually accountable. The goal is to "reconcile" the relationship for the sake of the member and the congregation.

To "reconcile"? Yes, to reconcile – to bring back or restore the relationship of member and congregation so that together can be served by the Ministry of Reconciliation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. So that as a congregation together can be served by Word and Sacrament (the Means of Grace given to the Church by almighty God Himself) and grow in relationship to God and fellow believers.

As a congregation, we can then also serve as ambassadors – vessels of clay – empowered by the Holy Spirit to the glory of God. This affords ministry that serves the members as well as reaches out to those who may not know Him or who are seeking a church home. This again, is by God's making and to His glory.

May the Lord richly bless our efforts to reach out to the Functionally Unchurched and can be much celebration as is spoken in Luke 15.

To God be the glory!

Pastor Schroeder

"The Bread of Life"

In John Chapter 6, Jesus announces to the crowds: "I am the bread of life." Jesus had just miraculously fed a multitude of hungry people from just five loaves of bread & two fish. So bread was on everybody's mind. But Jesus wants to direct those minds **from** not just the bread that fills their bellies for a day, but more than that, **to** the bread that gives life to both body & soul for eternity. Because that is the gift, Jesus comes to give. He comes to us, to we poor sinners, giving us of Himself to sustain us.



But why bread, we might ask? Because bread, across all cultures, is universally seen as the staple of life. It is that which gives life & sustains life. Without bread, without food, without sustenance, we die. It's true in the physical realm, and when Jesus applies this term to Himself, it's true in the spiritual realm as well. Without the bread of life, that is - without Jesus, we die forever. So we need the life that Jesus gives. We need this more than anything else in the world. Jesus is the only one who can give us this life. Jesus is the only one who can sustain this life. That is why he says, *"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."* This is why Jesus comes. He says, *"For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me."* **Note that, and mark it well!** Jesus Christ came down from heaven **to do the will of His Heavenly Father**. Jesus, the very Son of God, the eternal Son of God from before the foundation of the world, who at a real point in human history came down from heaven and became incarnate, one of us - in the flesh, for us men and for our salvation. This is why he came. The crowd back then didn't get it. They could only think of this Jesus as the guy who grew up in the home of Joseph & Mary. How can he say, "I have come down from heaven"? **But that is the mystery of the incarnation.** Only God can reveal Jesus to us as the Divine Savior sent from heaven. Jesus says as much: *"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him."* This happens as God's Word works repentance & faith in your heart so that you know you need a Savior and discover that Jesus is that very Savior! This is the importance of being in the Word!!! So that Jesus, the Word made flesh is at work in your heart, so that you know & feel your sins, you recognize your need for forgiveness, and for the sake of Jesus' cross, death, & resurrection, God forgives you all your sins. *"I am the bread of life,"* Jesus tells the crowd. *"Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die."* You know, you can eat the best & healthiest diet in the world. You can try whatever the latest diet fad is and go all-natural. You can eat high-fiber, whole-grain, and heart-healthy. You can go Keto or gluten-free. Yet, you're still going to die one day. What then? **Who will rescue you from this body of death?**

Who will do this? Jesus! He's the one. *"I am the bread of life,"* He says. That's why He came. And how does He give us this life? How does he meet our greatest need? Jesus tells us: *"And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."* Jesus gives life **to** the world by giving His life **for** the world. That is, **For You!!** This is the heart of the Gospel. Jesus gives His life so that you & I & the rest of the world might have life.

Jesus did this on the cross, of course. There he offered the perfect sacrifice that covers the sins of the whole world. *"Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."* This is God's supreme solution to our deepest need: our sin, which results in death & eternal damnation under God's judgment. Jesus takes all that from us. He gives His flesh into death, taking our place under God's judgment. He lifts that load off our shoulders and takes it onto His own, into His flesh, into His body on the cross. And by His holy precious bloodshed on your behalf, your sins are forgiven. Cleansed. No longer held against you.

Jesus atones for them all. For you. You are free, at peace with God, **for Jesus' sake**. Believe it. It's true. It's the truest and most freeing thing you'll ever hear.

And what is the result? Now you have life. New life. Eternal life. Jesus says: *"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst..."* *"...For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life."* And again: *"This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever."*

Everlasting life. How good does that sound? **Well**, if it were just an endless continuation of the heartaches & sorrows we suffer now in this vale of tears, what horror! But the life that Jesus gives is much better than that: life with no more tears, no more sorrow, no more sin or death. This is the eternal life that Jesus gives, and we have the sure hope of it even now.

We even get a tantalizing taste of it now, in the blessings Jesus showers upon us: That we know God now. That we have the joy of the Lord now. That now we have the peace that passes all understanding, standing guard over our hearts and minds. We have a new ability to love & forgive others **now**, to put off the old self, putting on the new self, and walk in real Christian love. Sealed with the Holy Spirit, we are made into the beloved children of our heavenly Father, new people in Christ. All this belongs to the new life we have now, **the life Christ freely gives us**. And this is life that will overcome the grave. The body we lay in the grave will rise one day, on the day when Christ returns, that is, on the last day.

Jesus reminds us: *"And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."* Again He says: *"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day."*

Did you catch that? Several times: *"And I will raise him up on the last day."* Jesus is talking about the bodily resurrection on the day when He returns. Our physical bodies will be raised up glorious, perfect, no longer subject to disease or death. **When?** On the last day. **This is our great hope**, the return of Christ and the resurrection of the body. **We confess it in the Creed every week!** I believe in "the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting."

Scripture teaches, time & again, the physical, bodily resurrection of the dead on the last day. Jesus will raise & give life to our dead bodies on the last day, which in turn will be the 1st day of our life everlasting in a restored creation, a renewed heaven & earth where righteousness will be at home. And we will dwell with God, and see God, along with all the saints from ages past, all the believers of all time, in perfect fellowship & harmony and never ending abundant joy! What a hope! And this is the hope you & I are called to share! What a thing to look forward to! This is the life that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ won for us & gives to us purely out of His grace & mercy. Trust in Jesus. The gift is yours.

"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." Here is Jesus' promise for you today as you read & hear His Word, as you mark, learn, inwardly digesting that which gives you strength for this journey, as you walk with your Savior today. Amen.

Prayer: Grace to receive the Word - Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor Josiah Fitch

ODDS and ENDS

ATTENTION! ALL ELECTED LEADERS!! LEADERSHIP SUMMIT On Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 6:30 P.M. all elected leaders of the congregation are invited to attend a Leadership Summit. This was originally to take place in January but needed to be postponed. All elected leaders of the congregation should plan on attending this important meeting. Besides some basics, we will be discussing goals and plans for 2022.



CHRISTIANS IN A WOKE WORLD BIBLE STUDY Beginning on Sunday, March 6, this study will begin. This will be the only Bible study offered on Sunday morning, Thursday morning, and Thursday evening. Thursday evening will meet weekly and is open to women as well. The idea is that the participant will choose the preferred time but can attend any of the three as the same topic will be fore all three sessions. Sign up for this class can be accessed by calling the church office. The cost for the workbook is \$13.00. If one cannot afford the cost, the congregation will cover the cost. Facilitators for the classes will be the pastors.

Why attend this class? Systemic racism, privilege, political correctness, woke, anti-racist, social justice are common words in the world today. What comes to mind when you hear them? Are you able to define them accurately? Does the world seem to be more divided along the lines of race, gender, religion, and income? Would you agree that trust in societal institutions such as religious education, marriage, media, and family is diminishing? Does it seem to you that young people are often losing their Christian faith while attending college? Do you think people desire to be considered a victim or part of a victim group? To understand our world and answer these questions, a Christian in today's America must understand the new Marxism, which is often called Cultural Marxism.

Pastors Fitch and Schroeder experienced this course at the 2021 Fall Pastor's Conference. Both were impressed with the Biblical response to these issues. Please consider joining in this study.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERIES 2022: WITNESSES TO CHRIST: PEOPLE FROM HIS PASSION

John tells us why he wrote his Gospel: "Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that by believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:30–31). Life! When we believe that Jesus is the Christ, God gives us life—abundant life, forgiven life, and eternal life.

Historically, the Fourth Gospel is likened to an eagle—an image that suggests John soars to heights of glory and grandeur. That's because the evangelist paints a stunning portrait of Jesus, who is the bread of life, the resurrection and the life, and the way, the truth, and the life. Life in Jesus. That's God's gift to you!

This Lent, our life in Christ will be strengthened as we hear the witness of those in John's Gospel who journeyed to the cross. Along the way, we'll meet villains, such as Barabbas and Pontius Pilate, as well as sinners, such as Peter (who denied Jesus *three* times), Mary Magdalene (who was possessed by *seven* demons), and Judas Iscariot (who betrayed Jesus for *thirty* pieces of silver).

Please join us for worship as we hear the witness of these people in John's Gospel. A schedule can be found in this newsletter of all of the special services beginning with Ash Wednesday.



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., March 8th from 8:45 to 11 A.M.**

“EMBRACING GREAT COMMISSION STEWARDSHIP” For three weeks beginning on Saturday, March 12 & Sunday, March 13, we will have the wonderful opportunity to grow in an understanding of what it means to Embrace Great Commission Stewardship. Christian stewardship involves the management of our lives and resources for God’s purposes. Great Commission stewardship helps us to understand better that the ultimate purpose of our stewardship is to direct our time, talents, and money to God’s primary purpose, which is to help *“all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”* (1 Timothy 2:4). As believers, we are God’s instruments through whom He works. We are His hands, feet, and mouth.

Just before Jesus’ ascension into heaven, He instructed His disciples: *“Go therefore and make disciples...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold I am with you always, to the end of the age”* (Matthew 28:19-20). These verses have been identified as the Great Commission. Jesus commanded His disciples to go spread the Gospel throughout all nations. The Great Commission was not just for the immediate eleven disciples but is directed to all believers, and it will not end until Jesus’ second coming.

Faithful stewardship demonstrates our love, devotion, and submission to Jesus. Christian stewardship is motivated by God’s love. God’s love overflowing from within us provides the power and energy for Great Commission stewardship. We begin to love our neighbors as our brothers and sisters in Christ through faith. We see others as God’s children who are lost and hopeless without Jesus like us. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we begin to witness and share God’s love with others.

Great Commission Stewardship calls upon us to commit our time, abilities, and our money. When Jesus invites us to follow Him, it is going to radically change how we view and use our lives and blessings. In Mark 8:34, Jesus bluntly states, *“If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.”* Just as Jesus submitted to His Father’s will, we are to submit to His. Our time, abilities, and money are not to be kept for ourselves but are to be used in making disciples for Jesus. Not only does God command us, *“Go therefore and make disciples,”* He has provided us with the tools to make disciples, and He promises to go with us: *“And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age”* (Matthew 28:20). Being encouraged, empowered, and equipped, now go and make disciples!

Packets will be sent out in early March to all confirmed members of the congregation. There will be detailed instructions and resources in the packet to guide the recipient in preparation for filling out the Time & Talent Survey as well as the Financial Commitment Card for 2022.

March 2nd Ash Wed./Lenten Meal – The Board of Education and the Sr. High Youth will be serving us a belly-warming dinner of Grilled Cheez & Tomato Soup.

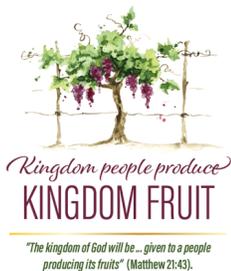
Thank you to everyone who purchased Subs and/or Chocolate Covered Strawberries! The youth raised over \$525 toward the National Youth Gathering!

Dinner & Show NYG Fundraiser– On March 12th from 6:30-8:30 pm, the youth will be putting on a Spaghetti Dinner and a series of short “shows” for the entertainment of all in attendance.



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, March 17, 2022. Happy St Patrick’s Day. Coffee fellowship begins at 11:00 AM, with lunch served promptly at 11:30 AM. At noon we will have our program. This month we will be having a game day. Sign up sheets will be in the Fellowship Hallway 2 weeks prior to the March 17th meeting. Make sure to sign up. We’d love to see you there, and you can even bring a friend.



March 14, Monday. We invite the women of Peace to join us at 6:30 pm, in the fellowship hall, for our Peace Mission Guild meeting. Our Bible Study will explain what God says about “Comfort and Hope to Share”. Our mission collection and service project will be focused on our sister in Christ, Amy Formella.

Missions Abroad – Training Pastors to Serve the Church in Russia. With this grant of \$100,000, the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church will assist with training pastors and deaconesses, and help prepare workers to spread the true Word of God to the long-repressed Russian people.



Donna Hoelzel 3/27

VITAL STATISTICS

Number of Baptized Souls: 468 Number of Confirmed Souls: 391 Number of Families: 244

Brought in by Profession of Faith:

David & Mary Fischer

MIDWEEK LENTEN, HOLY WEEK, AND EASTER SERVICES 2022

OVERALL THEME: “WITNESSES TO CHRIST”

Fellowship Supper at 6:00 P.M.

ASH WEDNESDAY: Wednesday, March 2 at 7:00 P.M. Holy Communion Celebrated

THEME: “John the Baptist”

MIDWEEK LENT 1: Wednesday March 9 at 7:00 P.M.

THEME: “Mary, The Sister of Lazarus and Martha”

MIDWEEK LENT 2: Wednesday, March 16 at 7:00 P.M.

THEME: “Malchus”

MIDWEEK LENT 3: Wednesday, March 23 at 7:00 P.M.

THEME: “Peter”

MIDWEEK LENT 4: Wednesday, March 30 at 7:00 P.M.

THEME: “Barabbas”

MIDWEEK LENT 5: Wednesday, April 6 at 7:00 P.M.

THEME: “Pontius Pilate”

PALM SUNDAY: Saturday & Sunday, April 9 & 10 Holy Communion Celebrated

THEME: “The Disciples”

MAUNDY THURSDAY: Thursday, April 14 at 7:00 P.M. Holy Communion Celebrated

THEME: “Judas Iscariot”

GOOD FRIDAY: Friday, April 15 at 7:30 P.M. THEME: “John, The Gospel Writer”

EASTER SATURDAY – NO WORSHIP SERVICE

EASTER SUNDAY – SUNRISE: Sunday, April 17 at 6:30 A.M. Holy Communion Celebrated

THEME: “Nicodemus”

EASTER BREAKFAST & EGG HUNT FOLLOWING SUNRISE SERVICE

EASTER SUNDAY – FESTIVAL: Sunday, April 17 at 9:00 A.M. Holy Communion Celebrated

THEME: “Mary Magdalene”



A wonderful washing

David's prayer of repentance reveals a desire to be cleansed of his sin.

Directions: Unscramble the words on the left. Then match them with the correct phrases from Psalm 51 (NIV) on the right.

ETRC AE _ _ _ _ _	_____	out my transgressions (v. 1)
HS AW _ _ _ _ _	_____	away all my iniquity (v. 2)
RSE ER OT _ _ _ _ _	_____	me with hyssop, and I will be clean (v. 7)
WN ER E _ _ _ _ _	_____	me, and I will be whiter than snow (v. 7)
TL BO _ _ _ _ _	_____	your face from my sins (v. 9)
DI HE _ _ _ _ _	_____	out all my iniquity (v. 9)
NA TR G _ _ _ _ _	_____	in me a pure heart (v. 10)
LN SE CA E _ _ _ _ _	_____	a steadfast spirit within me (v. 10)
LB TO _ _ _ _ _	_____	to me the joy of your salvation (v. 12)
WH SA _ _ _ _ _	_____	me a willing spirit, to sustain me (v. 12)

Answer: blot, wash, clean, wash, hide, blot, create, renew, restore, grant

Washed clean

Make customized jelly soaps to banish dirt and grime.



What you need:

- 1 package unflavored gelatin
- ¾ cup very warm water
- 1 tsp salt
- ¾ cup gel body wash
- Food coloring
- Rubbing alcohol in spray bottle
- Silicone baking molds

What you do:

1. In a bowl, stir gelatin and warm water until dissolved.
2. Add salt, body wash and a few drops of food coloring. Stir.
3. Spray molds with rubbing alcohol (to prevent bubbles). Place molds on a tray.
4. Pour mixture into the molds. Refrigerate until set, about two hours.
5. Pop soap out of molds and store in an airtight container.



Don't forget to "Spring forward" 1 hour before you go to bed Saturday, March 12th,

Peace Lutheran Church

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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



e-mails

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Web site:

www.peaceneenah.com

Worship Services

Sat. 5:00 p.m.

Sun. 9:00 a.m.

Bible Study/Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sundays

SADDLE UP

PUT ON YOUR BOOTS AND MOSEY OVER!

FOR A

PASTA DINNER

WITH SMALL POCKETS OF ENTERTAINMENT
CAUSE WE ARE HOOTIN', HOLLERIN', AND REJOICING FOR
THE 2022 NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING IN ALL THINGS!

SO COME ON Y'ALL

Meet us at the Chuck wagon on

SATURDAY MARCH 12, 2022 AT 6:30 PM

Get your tickets soon.