

# Peace Lutheran Church

Volume 35 No. 6

June 2022



## MINISTRY TO THE FUNCTIONALLY UNCHURCHED PART VI: A LAST WORD

Just a brief update on the Ministry to the Functionally Unchurched being administered by the Board of Elders.

In the May Elders Meeting, a list of Functionally Unchurched members was distributed. Those on the list are within the “30-mile” radius and have not attended church since the beginning of 2022, based on the attendance cards that are to be filled out when in attendance. The list consists of 80+ members.

The Elders, over the summer, are to reach out to those who are in their assigned member households. Reports will be given throughout the summer of their progress. The hope is to have members return to attend worship regularly. In September, a final list will be compiled, and letters will be sent out to those who have not been able to be contacted.

Now, this sounds “unloving.” But it is not. It is the responsibility of the Elders under and with the pastors to oversee the flock and go out and make contact for the sake of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, whose name they bear since coming to faith, since being baptized.

Beginning next month, I will embark on a series of articles to bolster the stewardship of time and talent.

To God be the glory!

Pastor Schroeder



**MEN'S ANNUAL COOKOUT** On Thursday, June 30<sup>TH</sup> we will meet at Pastor Schroeder's home, (1223 Lynrose Lane, Neenah) for a cookout and fellowship. We will begin to gather at 5:30 P.M. Dinner will be at 6:00 P.M. Pastors Fitch and Schroeder are hosting the event. This is open to all confirmed men of the congregation. Please e-mail pastor at [pastor@peaceneenah.com](mailto:pastor@peaceneenah.com) if you plan to attend by **Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup>**. Bring Your Own Beverage, though pastor will have bottled water, soda and bottled tea.



**HEARTFELT THANKS FOR OUR PEACE FAMILY** No words can ever express our heartfelt thanks for our Peace family. Thank you for your outpouring of love in support of Stefan and the death of Lynne's father, Phil. May the Lord richly bless you in like measure. What a joy to know that we do not need to make our journey on our own. Pastor & Lynne

## FROM THE PASTOR



### "Are we Fishers of Men, or just 'Gone Fishin'?"

Have you ever heard one of those big fish stories? Someone who had the big one on the hook, but after a reeling and fighting, quite a mighty struggle, it got away. The "big fish story" has become a handy metaphor for all kinds of exaggerated tales people tell. It's a kind of tall tale that gets a chuckle, maybe even a Wow!, but isn't often taken too seriously.

When Jesus speaks of His disciples and fishing, it's no tall tale. But it is a big fish story of another sort. Jesus calls fishermen to be among his first disciples and sees in them a living metaphor to describe His kingdom. "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

And so, as we have read this passage time & again over the years, we are often told once again that we too better get out there and start fishing – because Jesus calls us all to be fishers of men, gives us the Gospel that we would share the good news to catch people for His kingdom, to preach the Gospel... but not so fast. Let's back the metaphor up a minute. Let's understand its parts. Then maybe we can get a better sense of what Jesus really means, how He calls us, and what He calls us to.

Jesus always has the kingdom on His mind. It was the main content of his preaching. "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." It's as if he's saying, "All right, everyone, I have finally arrived. I am the king, after all. And I am here to establish my reign and rule. But my kingdom is not of this world. So my kingdom is different. I don't rule by force and coercion. I call you to repent, to turn away from your sins. And turn to me. Trust in me. And the good news is this: I am here for you always. I will die for you. I will rise from the dead for you. And believing in me, you will have eternal life."

This kingdom, this reign, and rule of God in the hearts of men is part & parcel of Jesus. And so, most of His parables & teaching focused on just what the kingdom was. What it was like, and how we are to get it or be in it.

So now, the fishing story. When Jesus called some of His first disciples, he said, "**Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.**" If that's the case, then people are fish. And to be "caught" is to come to faith. The net is the Gospel itself. I would even suggest the boat is the church, where believers are gathered together for safe passage and where we as fish learn to fish.

Perhaps you've seen a church sign which tries to pick up on this metaphor – the sign that says something like, "Be fishers of men. You catch 'em, he'll clean 'em". While it may be a clever attention-getter, it's not quite scripturally accurate. Jesus does the cleaning of the fish, that's for sure. Through His Word & Sacraments, He cleanses us from sin, purifies, and makes us holy.

But what we need to realize is that it is not for us to catch the fish. We simply cast the net. Remember when Jesus met His disciples when they were out all night fishing and having no luck. Remember how He told them to cast on the side of the boat just one more time. And to humor Him, they heeded His call and did so – only to catch a miraculous bounty of fish that even began to burst the net? They could never have caught those fish alone – indeed, they didn't really do anything except follow Christ's instructions. But he made the miracle happen. They simply cast the net and pulled in the catch.

*(Continued on page 3)*

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We don't make people believe; we simply share the Gospel. We, the church, share the Good News about Jesus, and the Spirit works faith when & where He will. Sometimes people reject the message, the fish that got away, if you will. But nonetheless, we follow Christ's instructions, baptizing & teaching, spreading the Word to all nations. We cast the net of the Gospel into the sea of sin and the murky depths of this world's foul waters. And He does the miracle. He brings in the catch. He builds his church.

All of us, before we are fishers of men, must be fish. We are, without Jesus, lost in the murky depths of our sin. We don't necessarily even know it since we were born into these dark depths. What fish could know that there's a whole world above, a different life on land and in the sky? We must be, and are continually, "caught" in the net of His Gospel. We are called to repent & believe again & again. His kingdom comes to us through His Word, through our faith, given by His grace. He cleans us & calls us to serve Him in His kingdom. He calls us unto Himself willingly given for us, for our forgiveness.

That is what you get to share with others, the hope that is within you with those within your reach, those within your sphere of influence when given the opportunity. And if those opportunities seem rare, fear not and don't feel guilty, for you are still part of the church. You can support the preaching & teaching of the Word. Through your gifts, service, time, and talents, you may not be the one throwing the net, but you are in the boat helping out. You support the ministry of the church. You pray for the Gospel to have free course and for sinners to repent and believe.

But most of all, you are a fish; we all are fish that need continual catching and cleaning by the Great Fisherman. If a fish is caught in the everyday sense, his life is over. A fish out of water soon dies from lack of oxygen and ends up as the restaurant special on Friday. But in the kingdom, things are different. We, His fish, are found safe & secure in His net and on His boat. We are actually rescued from death in the water, and with Him, we live forever. He gives Himself to us in His Supper for us to eat and drink. When we are caught by Him, our life isn't over; it begins anew.

So, as you go wherever you go throughout this summer, be a fish in Jesus' net, and seek to relationally fish for others when & how you can, in accordance with where our Lord has called you, sharing the Gospel with those around you to the glory of His name. And with all the faithful, He will catch you & clean you again & again.

**Heavenly Father, Like your Son's disciples who were fishing in the usual way, expecting the usual results, we also relate to such efforts. But You are extraordinary, and You do extraordinary work in our lives as we yield our will to Yours and heed Your instruction. Lead us to do your will above all else. Shape us into the most useful and enduring vessels that bring glory to You while we cast out nets for the great catch of men and women for the kingdom. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

*Pastor Josiah Fitch*



Congratulations to our 2022 High-School Graduates Sean Johnson and Ariana Meunier whom we will recognize on Pentecost Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. They will each receive a couple of gifts from the church that will assist them in surviving college. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue in their studies and that they continue to shine the light of Christ wherever they go.

Congratulations once again to our 2022 Confirmands, who made their Confirmation Vows on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. Please keep them and all of our members at Peace in your continual prayers that we would continue to shine the light of the Gospel here in Neenah and throughout the world!



**Summer Internship** - We are happy to announce our joy & excitement to host CUW student Nick Johnson (yes, our own Nick Johnson) as a Summer Ministry Intern! Pastor Fitch will serve as Nick's Internship Supervisor as he is set to shadow the Pastors of Peace (Youth & Family Ministry, Homebound, Bible Study, Boards, etc.), and so learn about many aspects of Church Ministry and how our church operates. Nick's Internship Installation will be Trinity Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for Nick that his internship may go well and that he learns ever more about the work the Lord is calling him to.



**Summer Sunday Bible Studies** – Pastors Schroeder & Fitch will be teaching 2 concurring Bible Studies over the Summer:

**Pastor Schroeder's 1 Corinthians Bible Study will pick back up** on Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> from where we left off in Chapter 4 of St. Paul's letter. We are reminded that as Christians in today's world, we face similar challenges that were present in Corinth during St. Paul's day. St. Paul continually points the reader to Christ, who leads us through all of life's issues, touching on many current day topics such as Christian maturity, homosexuality, leadership at home & in church, importance of doctrine, the Lord's Supper, church growth, and more. If you wish to join this class, just let Pastor Schroeder know, and he can get you a book.

**Pastor Fitch's "Tree of Life: God's Promise of Salvation" Bible Study** will begin on Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. This Bible Study connects with both our Summer Preaching Series on the "Tree of Life", as well as to our 2022 "Tree of Life" VBS. This 10-week study examines God's plan of salvation as it unfolds through the Old Testament and is fulfilled in the life, ministry, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The first 5-weeks will focus on the Old Testament, while the last 5-weeks will feature lessons in the New Testament. We will begin with creation and the fall into sin, which brought all the evils we experience into this world. Then we will look at the unfolding of God's promise to send His Son with lessons on Abraham, Moses, King David, and Daniel. Then, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of The Tree of Life, we will focus on Jesus' coming as our Savior. We will look at His birth, Baptism, ministry, crucifixion, resurrection, and His promise to return on the Last Day to judge the living and the dead. By the end of these 10-weeks, you will be refreshed with the Bible's overarching theme and storyline, equipped with the tools for unlocking the full riches of each page of Holy Scripture. Please bring your Bible (we have extras if you forget), and your willingness to take in the Word!

## **OUR AMERICAN FLAG (Reprint from July 2016)**

Since June 14 is Flag Day, I thought it would be good to share this with you again....

Have you ever wondered why the flag of the United States of America is folded 13 times when it is lowered or when it is folded and handed to the widow at the burial of a veteran? Here is the meaning of each of those folds and what it means to you.

The 'first fold' of our flag is a symbol of life.

The 'second fold' is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

The 'third fold' is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.

The 'fourth fold' represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The 'fifth fold' is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries may she always be right~ but it is still our country, right or wrong."

The 'sixth fold' is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States Of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The 'seventh fold' is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The 'eighth fold' is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.

The 'ninth fold' is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The 'tenth fold' is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

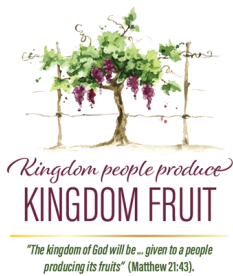
The 'eleventh fold', in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The 'twelfth fold', in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit.

When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God We Trust".

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges, and freedoms we enjoy today.

The next time you see a flag ceremony honoring someone that has served our country, either in the Armed Forces or in our civilian services such as the Police Force or Fire Department, keep in mind all the important reasons behind each and every movement. They have paid the ultimate sacrifice for all of us by honoring our flag and our Country.



**June 15-** The summer events for Peace Mission Guild are non-traditional and informal. Join us as we "Face the Music" on a Wednesday evening and enjoy free entertainment by the Britans, which Future Neenah sponsors. (who doesn't like to reminisce to music by the Beatles?) We will meet at church at 5 pm to carpool to the concert site/downtown Neenah and begin our evening with a devotion and prayer. Be sure to sign up by the fellowship hall, and enjoy an evening of fun with your Peace sisters.

**Propelling the Gospel** takes the Gospel message to the Indigenous people in remote areas of northern Canada. Lutheran Association of Missionary Pilots(LAMP) uses 2 small air crafts to transport hundreds of volunteer missionaries to communities that are only accessible by air. The \$65,00 grant will be used for instrument upgrades on the aircraft to ensure safety.



Patti Marohn	6-3
Linda Bradley	6-8
Diane Hahn	6-10
Judy Daley	6-20
Sharon Wolf	6-27



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1 oak table and chairs last seen in Mothers' Room. Have you seen me?  
If so, kindly return to its room.

We would appreciate it. The Trustees 😊



*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good (1 Corinthians 12:4-7).*

These Bible verses encourage us to remember that each of us has different gifts, and God has knit them together for a specific purpose in this place at this time.

Have you been blessed with the gifts to help here at Peace to perform one or more of the following small but important tasks?

bulletin folding on Fridays	filling pews cards, pencils, and envelopes
wash acolyte robes	clean candle extinguishers
counting offering	clean whiteboards at the end of the year
stock Sunday school rooms with supplies in August	
fold special service bulletins (Mother's Day, Father's Day, Advent, Lent, etc.)	

Those who have donated a few hours each month to perform these tasks in the past are greatly appreciated. You, too, can worship God by enlisting to complete one of these small but necessary services here at Peace by contacting Stewardship Board members Barb Kaun, Phil Nickolai, and Ed Perkins through Administrative Assistant Grace in the church office.



## VITAL STATISTICS

Number of Baptized Souls: 468 Number of Confirmed Souls: 393 Number of Families: 246

### Winterfest In June 2022

This summer, we are sponsoring a postponed Winterfest event. **This gathering is for all members of Peace Lutheran who want to come and socialize with your Christian friends.** It will be held on Lutheran Lane (1728 Grundman Court, Oshkosh).

Here are some of the specifics about the event ...

1. Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 3-6 pm
2. Old fashioned potluck picnic, serving at 4:30
3. Jim Hoelzel will be making his famous fish fry
4. Joe Belongia will be making his venison nibblers
5. If you want to fish from the docks, please bring your own fishing equipment and make sure you have a fishing license. (no boat fishing this year)

TO HELP US PLAN ... PLEASE SIGN UP.

The sign-up will be in the hallway in early June and will include a dish to pass (salad, main dish, or dessert).

**Questions ... See Joe & Kris Belongia (920-233-3999),**



### **A special offering for Ukraine will be taken on June 4&5.**

The Office of International Mission of The LCMS is working with several Lutheran church bodies and missionaries in Europe to help our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine, Lutheran refugees, and others affected by the violence. If you want to help now ---

#### **Mail Donations to:**

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
P.O. Box 66861

St. Louis, MO 63166-6861 Please write "Help for Displaced Ukrainians" in the memo line.

**To Text** Send the message **LCMSUKRAINE** to **41-444** from your mobile phone to give through LCMS Mission Advancement.

**Peace Lutheran Church**

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Rev. Ricky P. Schroeder

Pastor

Rev. Josiah Fitch

Associate Pastor



**Peace  
Lutheran Church**  
NEENAH, WISCONSIN – LCMS

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



**e-mails**

[pastor@peaceneenah.com](mailto:pastor@peaceneenah.com)  
[assocpastor@peaceneenah.com](mailto:assocpastor@peaceneenah.com)

**Web site:**

[www.peaceneenah.com](http://www.peaceneenah.com)

**Worship Services**

**Sat. 5:00 p.m.**

**Sun. 9:00 a.m.**

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



Friday, May 27

Monday, May 30

Friday, July 1

Monday, July 4th