

Peace Lutheran Church

Volume 36 No. 9

September 2023



"HOW LONG, O LORD?"

Read Psalm 13.

How often have you found yourself frustrated, disappointed, or outright questioning what God is allowing you to suffer? This is not uncommon for God's people on this travail of tears. There are many of the saints of old that have encountered such frustrations and questioning of God.

Job is probably the person that comes to mind. Though he is an example of patient long-suffering, he also was led to express his frustration. His "friends" were of no comfort to him. Yet, he hung on, trusting that if the relief would not come in this life, he knew and was confident that in the life to come, his suffering would be ended, and with his own eyes, he would see the redeemer.

Psalm 13 is one of many Psalms that express lament over this life and wondering what God is doing.

David laments over his suffering. He suffered the consequences of his sins from outside of his family and inside his family. Two civil wars – one led by his son and the second from a trusted advisor. God reminded him of the division he had caused to the family of Uriah on account of his adulterous relationship with Bathsheba. His unrest was God's way of disciplining him. At the same time, God brought him through.

God had a plan in preserving David for His purposes – to continue carrying out His plan of salvation.

David cried out in prayer for God's restoration. Life was hard, and David wanted relief. He knew of God's mercy and that He would hear his prayer and not allow his enemies "bragging rights" that they had defeated him.

Perhaps our suffering in this life is brought about as consequences of disobedience. God disciplines us to bring us back to Him. He is merciful and will not let us go down in defeat. He restores us in the forgiveness of sins, preserving us for His purposes and for the sake of eternity. However, our plight is also a result of sin in the world. Yet, God is there to lead us through.

Like David, we cry out, knowing that almighty God will hear our prayers and address the maladies. None of us knows the mind or will of almighty God. But we know that He loved us so much that He sent His Son to reconcile and redeem us so that, ultimately, we will live with Him in eternity.

This is exactly how David ends the Psalm. He confesses confidence in God's mercy and ultimate good. David would be restored, and God's plan of salvation would march forward.

This is what Almighty God will do for us. If we do not find satisfying relief in this life, it will be ours for eternity.

As a congregation, we have suffered many frustrations. We scratch our heads and wonder, How long? Yet, we know that He will lead us through and establish His will for us and through us. Looking to His gifts of the Means of Grace – His Word and Sacraments – that He will enable us to accomplish His purpose for us. We cling to His words and promises, knowing the end game – life everlasting in His eternal kingdom.

So, following the example of Job and of David – cry out! Know that He hears and will lead you through. Cry out with hope, as did His servants in the past. As a congregation, we will also cry out and know that He will not abandon us as we seek to "Reach Out, Serve Jesus and Celebrate His Love."

To God be the glory!

Pastor Schroeder



"Faith of Our Fathers"

Deut. 6:4-9: "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

God has called parents to a wondrous & difficult primary duty: **Teaching**. It doesn't end at Confirmation or age 18. It continues for as long as we live. As parents, we love & protect our children as gifts from God. We pray to our heavenly Father that He fill in the gaps we leave and that the devil, the world & the flesh would not lure their hearts away from Jesus. We shelter them within the fortress of Almighty God, training them up in God's Law & in the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, life & salvation.

In multiple studies over the last few decades on why children stay in church, the top 2-reasons are: **Dad sang in church & they were able to talk to their moms about God.** It sounds simple, but it makes sense. Children who see their parents valuing a relationship with God thru active participation in worship, bible study & conversation generally see the church as having lasting value for them. No matter how often our children (*especially in the teen years*) say they don't care about what their parents say or do, they are listening and watching & actually *care*! Family worshiping together has value. The #1 reason kids need to be in church: **God wants them there!** He wants all of us close & He wants us to encourage each other to be where He promises to be present among us. Worship is about being fed by God through His Word & Sacrament, receiving from His hand all of His Fatherly gifts. His Word & presence come to us as we gather to receive.

We are thankful to have children in our congregation to teach in Sunday School & Confirmation. We are glad to have parents who care enough about their children's eternal well-being that they want to see them grow in their faith in Christ. We are also thankful for the members who support our Christian education efforts. Yet Parents remain the primary teachers of the faith to their children. That's part of God's design for families. God expects parents, especially fathers, to be teaching their children who He is, what it means to live according to His Word, how we receive His forgiveness & how we worship Him as He wants us to.

We are to teach our children God's Law: His good design & what is best for our lives as His human creatures, especially in a culture where good is called evil & evil good. As our Creator, He knows what's best. So it's important that we think & reflect on God's Law, summed up for us in the 10 Commandments, memorizing them by heart with our kids. In them, God reminds us of how He wants us to live, what is best & right for us, especially that: He alone is God, and we are to fear, love, & trust in Him above all things; we are to value the name of God, how He has revealed Himself to us, & treat His holy Name with respect & reverence; we are to set aside time regularly to gather with God's people in order to hear His saving Word & receive His good gifts.

Then the 10-Commandments teach us how to love our neighbor: honoring our father & mother **and** those He puts in authority over us; seeking our neighbors good in body & reputation, not harming them or speaking lies about them (*or the truth without love!*), but being kind; upholding our neighbor's marriage, not disrupting it; helping our neighbor protect what is his, not stealing from him. This is God's good will for us: **to Love our neighbor as ourselves.**

(Continued on page 3)

This is what we, as parents, are to teach our children. As God, thru Moses, reminds us: "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children."

When we do this, we'll discover a few things: Our children are not going to do as well as we hope—let alone as God requires. They will fall short. They will mess up. They will sin. And guess what? So will we. We will not teach them as well as we should. We are all sinners. We don't keep, do, or teach God's Law as we ought, which carries with it the punishment that all sin deserves: death. So, we also must teach them the Gospel, the good news of forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ, God's greatest gift to us. The Law Shows-Our-Sin, it hurts, but it tills our hardened hearts and prepares us for the Gospel, which Shows-Our-Savior Jesus, the one who died & rose again for our forgiveness, life, & salvation. We need Jesus; our children need Jesus more than anything else in the world. Without Him, we are lost & dead. In Christ, we are made children of God, with new life now & eternal life forever. This is the faith we pass on to our children! But where do we do this? At church? Yes, the church is a place where we hear God's Word & grow in grace & knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord together. But giving our kids just 1-2 hours of exposure per week to God's Word isn't enough. What about the other 166/167 hours? What about all the other influences from our sin-sick culture around us?

That's what God wants the Israelites & us to understand today when He says: "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." Morning, evening & everywhere: God calls us to teach our children His Word-365 days a year. That's how much we all need it.

We're always teaching our kids by what we say & do, positively or negatively. Sometimes good teaching is negated by bad examples & actions (*God help us do better!*). God is rich in grace toward us for Jesus' sake and forgives our failings. So today, receive His grace & share it with your kids. Let them see your faith by catching you praying or reading the Bible. **Pray with them & read it with them** so they get to hear it in YOUR voice! Talk about the Sunday readings & sermon and what you all learned & received from God's hand in church AT HOME! Let them hear you say to them, to your spouse, and to others: I'm sorry, forgive me, and I forgive you.

God in His Word helps & strengthens us to teach by word & example. God loves your kids even more than you do & loves you more than you can imagine! Our Father sending His Son to be our Savior and giving us faith by the Holy Spirit to receive Christ shows how much God loves us, His children. Be in the Word & trust God's promises to help you teach your children well.

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." Prov 22:6

Grant this Lord unto us all through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

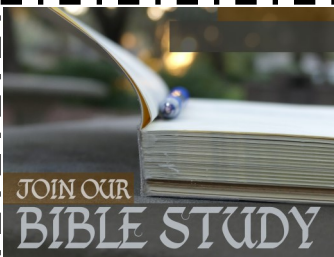
Pastor Josiah Fitch



Bazaar Craft Day

Bazaar Craft Day! September 16th Peace will be hosting a craft day from 9am—12pm for anyone from Confirmation age and up! Crafts will be provided as well as refreshments (lunch is not provided). The crafts that are made will be put in the Christmas Bazaar for sale. There is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship hallway. Please note if you would be interested in child care! We are looking forward to day of crafts, creativity and camaraderie! With any questions or concerns, please contact:

Ashley Fitch (574) 780—2749 or Clare Hirssig (608) 886 - 0321.



SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS This class will resume on Saturday, September 17, at 8:30 A.M. We will resume our book study entitled, Confessing Jesus. Coffee is available. This class meets normally on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month. There is yet an ample supply of the book for those who may wish to join. They are free.

ONGOING BIBLE CLASSES Continuing into the Fall, the following Bibles studies facilitated by Pastor Schroeder:

Thursday Morning - 9:30 A.M. "I, II & III John"

Sunday Morning - 10:30 A.M. "I & II Corinthians"

Consider attending these studies as well. Though already underway, new attendees will benefit from them.

Women's Bible Study: Sip, Savor & Drink Deeply Starting September 6th!

The idea of a coffee break is enticing, isn't it? Even if coffee isn't your beverage of choice, you look forward to downtime, especially if it is spent with a friend who wants your company.

Jesus is such a friend. The Lord wants our company. He invites us to meet with Him in His Word.

Just imagine what He has in store for us as we meet Him with our "cup" - our self - a vessel created and chosen by God, redeemed in Christ, and ready to be filled for His purpose.

Time spent in Bible study will fill you to the brim and beyond with God's Good News. Sip, savor and drink deeply from His Word. Receive the outpouring of His grace, His joy and His peace.

Grab your cup of coffee (or hot chocolate, water, tea) and join us to Sip, Savor and Drink Deeply

with your sisters in Christ! We will be meeting at Peace, the first and third Wednesday of the month, at 9:30 am.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School - September 2023

Welcome Back!

Our Sunday School year focus will be on connection in Christ. We have worked to set our education program up to bring the student, teachers and even the congregation together with Christ at the center. We have broken down our curriculum into three sections this year with Peace's mission statement as our theme. Therefore, our three sections are **Reaching Out, Serving Jesus and Celebrating His Love**.



Rally Day - September 10th includes Sunday School Kickoff at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Church Picnic follows at 11:30 a.m.

Important Notes:

All students are to come to the Fellowship Hall first each week at 10:30 a.m. to begin Sunday School.

This year the classes are divided as follows:

3 yr. old - K5 in Red Room (Preschool Room)

1st - 4th grade in Orange Room (Fellowship Hall Classroom)

5th - 7th grade in Blue Room (Fellowship Hall Classroom)

Keep an eye out for a fun Sunday School Fellowship event each month beginning with our Rally Day for September.

Any questions? Please contact Caitlin Vanden Bloomer or Betsy Ehlert.





Thank you to everyone who stopped at the Peace Lutheran Farmers' Market booth on Saturday, August 12. A lot of community members stopped as well as people from out of state! A special thank you to Fred Kaun for making the spinning wheel for adults and children to play and win prizes. It was a big hit! The Board of Evangelism partnered with Peace Mission Guild to make this a successful event.

Peace Mission Guild will hold the first meeting of the year on Monday, September 11, at 6:30pm. All women are invited. There will a devotion, ice breaker, Bible Study, "Created for God's Work" and brief business meeting. Come and get together with women you may not have seen for a while!

South Wisconsin District Fall Retreat will be Friday-Saturday, September 29-30, at the Clarion Hotel & Suites in Wisconsin Dells. The theme is "Comforted to Comfort Others". Registration cost for the retreat is \$60. Lodging is \$99 (plus fees & taxes) for 2-4 people in a room. Registration deadline is September 10. More information can be found at this link: <https://www.lwml-swd.org/upld/resource/2a34a42f-6be3-4c78-bd38-6c63e02812b7.pdf>

Looking ahead to October, LWML weekend will be September 30-October 1 where a collection for Mites will be taken. All monies received in this collection are sent to LWML-South Wisconsin District, where 25% is sent to LWML for national and international missions and 75% is used for South Wisconsin District missions.

Mission Moment – A Healing Space for At-Risk Children — Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, ND \$100,000

The Christ-centered, healing ministry of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch creates an eternal, lifegiving impact in the lives of children, age 10 to 18, who have faced unimaginable trauma. This grant will help build a chapel to serve as a healing space to help them know and experience the mercy of Christ and His healing power.



September Birthdays:

Marge Hinchley	9/7
Paulette Stecker	9/7
Sue Ahlswede	9/27



YEAH OWLS 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).

Yeah Owls will be back beginning in September. We will again have some interesting programs coming your way. They will include music, competitions, educational speakers, and more. If you've never been to a Yeah Owls, we'd love to welcome you. We meet the **third Thursday of the month** beginning in September and running through May. We began in 2017 and at first it was a group of retirees. Over the years we've included anyone interested in our programs who has the day off. There is always a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship hallway two weeks before our get togethers. We ask that you kindly sign up, so we know how much food to prepare for the entrée and I usually include a sign up for a few salads and desserts for those who love to cook. A free will offering is collected to help defray the cost of the entrée. Coffee fellowship begins at 11:00 AM with lunch served promptly at 11:30 AM. At noon we have our program which runs until 1:00pm. Please consider joining us. We'd love to see you there and you can even bring a friend. Please see or call Linda McDermott if you have any questions.

Here is our program for Thursday September 21, 2023. Paulette Stecker will lead us in a game of "Boomer Trivia". We had such a great time last year with "Wisconsin Trivia" so we'll have a trivia game again to kick off this year. Let's see how much we remember about the 50's, 60's, and 70's that we've lived in. Come join us for the fun and laughter. Teams will be randomly assigned and prizes will be awarded to the winning team. Sign up sheet will be in the Fellowship Hallway by September 9.



DECEMBER HOLIDAY SCHEDULE 2023 In conversation with the pastors and the recommendation of the Board of Education, and on account of the calendar for 2023, the Board of Elders has decided on the following schedule for the special services for December 2023...

Saturday, December 23 - 5:00 P.M. Worship and Holy Communion
Sunday, December 24 - 9:00 A.M. Sunday School Children's Christmas Service - No Communion

Sunday, December 24 - 7:00 P.M. Candlelight Service - No Communion

Monday, December 25 - 9:00 A.M. Worship with Holy Communion

Saturday, December 30 - 5:00 P.M. Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday, December 31 - 9:00 A.M. Worship with Holy Communion

As you can see, there are no services on Sunday, December 24, at 4:00 P.M. or on New Year's Eve, December 31, at 6:00 P.M. The Elders will review the Christmas and New Year's schedule in 2024.



Rally Day & Church Picnic - Will take place together on Sunday, September 10th this year, kicking off our Sunday School & Bible Study year with Food & Fellowship. All church picnic for everyone on Rally Day, Sunday, September 10, meal served at 11 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall, with seating outdoors if weather permits. Games for all ages.

Pull out that family favorite recipe, the one that everyone raves about. There's plenty of fridge space to keep your favorite salads cold. Bring hotdishes in slow cookers, or reheated in the ovens. Whether you bring a dish to pass, help serve or clean up, don't miss the church picnic.

Confirmation Orientation - Will take place on Wednesday, September 6th @ 5pm for 7th & 8th Grade Catechumen. This year, 5th & 6th Grade Catechumen will join with the 7th Grade students on Sunday Mornings to walk through Biblical Apologetics (Defense of the Christian Faith) together. Wednesday 7th & 8th Grade Classes will begin a week following the orientation on September 13th.

The Foundations for the Future Fund (FFtFF) was established to finance major projects. This fund has been used to pay down the two loans for remodeling of the narthex, replacing the boiler, and re-roofing over classrooms on the north side of the building. All contributions to the FFtFF will continue to be used to finance major projects in the future even after the existing loans are eliminated.

The Board of Trustees have projected out to 2029 foreseeable needs to be funded from the FFtFF. The upkeep of God's house and the property Peace has been blessed with will be ongoing, and this fund will serve as a savings account for upcoming major projects.

12 envelopes with blue borders have been included in your offering envelope boxes, and these donations are only used to build up the FFtFF. Thank you for helping us to plan for the future by using those envelopes when you have reason to give thanks for extra blessings received.

Display your beliefs! The bumper sticker shown below (also addresses the woke message) is available to be displayed as you see fit (car, trailer, truck, home). Please contact Fred Kaun (fkaun@me.com or 920.573.9268) if you would like one and will actually display it. Let your belief be shown!

Marriage=
One Man + One Woman
(Chromosomes at birth = XY + XX)
with God's lifelong blessing!

Re: VITALITY TASK FORCE: AN UPDATE

In their July meeting, the Task Force had a presentation on the demographics of our area of ministry. A one-mile radius served as the focus of the study. This was necessary to help understand the needs of the area as well as the characteristics of the neighborhood – ministry area – that God has placed us in. This study will help in planning strategies for the next three years that may be realistic and accomplished.

The Task Force was also presented with the “Report on the Interviews” prepared by me. This will also help to identify strategies that are realistic and will meet the needs of the congregation. (This Report is being sent electronically to those who receive the newsletter in electronic form. Copies will be made in the Narthex beginning with the first weekend of this month for those who are not receiving it electronically.)

It was decided to postpone the workshops that were planned for August to allow the Task Force members to digest the report and have the opportunity to discuss it in their August meeting. The Task Force will be given 2-3 models to choose from in order to accomplish the balance of their work in order to produce a strategic plan for the Voters' consideration. This Plan will prayerfully be ready for November's Voters Assembly.

Please continue to pray for the Task Force as it moves forward and completes the workshop(s). Pray that the Lord will guide and give discernment for the advancement of His kingdom and the future ministry of our congregation.

Pastor Schroeder

VITAL STATISTICS

Number of Baptized Souls: 402
Number of Confirmed Souls: 347
Number of Families: 246

Death

July 31, 2023
Ray Zanto
August 5, 2023
Rae Tipler

Funeral

August 9, 2023
Ray Zanto
August 16, 2023
Rae Tipler

Prepared by Loren Wahl, Congregation Chairman, August 15, 2023.

\$40,222 July Budget (anticipated expenses)

\$39,876 Actual July Income

\$35,495 Actual July Expenses

\$ 4,381

\$281,553 YTD Budget (anticipated expenses)

\$276,503 Actual YTD Income

\$254,943 Actual YTD Expenses

Summary: July 2023, income exceeded our expenses.

Good news: For 2023 YTD, income nearly matches YTD budget.

Good news: 2023 YTD is \$276K compared to 2023 YTD which was \$242,780

Cash reserves: For operations we have \$25K. Our monthly expense budget is \$40K. The target is to have cash reserves equal to at least two months' worth of expenses.

Restricted funds: We have \$53K in restricted funds and \$296K in the endowment fund. But these monies cannot be used to pay ordinary expenses like utilities, insurances, and wages.

Share the Gospel through the 2023-2026 LCMS National Offering

• Every three years, alongside the Synod convention, LCMS congregations and their members join to share special gifts through the LCMS National Offering.

• The 2023-2026 National Offering, under the theme “*We Preach Christ Crucified for All People*”, will support the translation and production of meaningful Lutheran resources in languages other than English, so that all may read, hear, and speak the Good News of Christ crucified in a language easily understood by them.

• You are invited to share a special gift on September 16 & 17, when a door offering designated for the LCMS National Offering will be received and combined with \$1,000 of Peace's mission offering, as we continue *Reaching Out, Serving Jesus, and Celebrating His Love* together.



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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assocpastor@peaceneenah.com

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



**Church office will be closed Monday,
September 4th.**



Peace Mom's– MOPS will be meeting on Wednesday,
September 13th at 9 a.m.

Love kids? Neenah MOPs, in community with Peace Lutheran Church in Neenah, is in need of loving, responsible individuals to provide childcare during MOPs (Mothers Of Preschoolers) meetings at Peace Lutheran Church. We meet just once a month for a couple hours in the morning, during the school year, September - May.

Must be at least 18 years of age and pass a background check. This is a paid position.

For more information, please contact Rebecca Doyle, Neenah MOPs Coordinator (810)357-7742

MOPS International encourages and equips moms of young children to realize their potential as mothers, women and leaders, in relationship with Jesus, and in partnership with the local church.