

St. Peter News

August 2015

St. Peter Lutheran Church

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How to Recover from Ecclesiastical Homicide

Well, hopefully that title got your attention and has you reading this text. What could that possibly mean? Dear friends in Christ, it is with great joy and honor I embrace this opportunity to write to both the saints of God at Trinity and at St. Peter.

We have had some struggles, some tension, and dare I even say, some attempted assassinations of the character of various individuals in our congregations and in our shared ministry at Deshler Lutheran School and in our mutual ministry to the people of our community. All of these things have taken their toll and have negatively impacted our ability to do outreach and even our ability to purposefully and joyfully function in the ongoing efforts of Word & Sacrament ministry and the teaching and training in righteousness.

What has happened? Not everyone may be aware, but in the last 6 months people of good will, with good intentions, and desiring what is best, at least in their minds, for these ministries of Christ's church have allowed Satan to coerce their consciousness and produce unholy talk, ill-spoken rebukes and out-of-place gossip. Though we are supposed to speak to each other in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Eph 5:19; Col 3:16), and we are encouraged to, "Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion;" (Eph 4:29) instead, much corrupting talk has echoed from many lips. We sit in worship one morning praising our God and Father and later that same day we are cursing a fellow believer who disagrees with us or who has sinned against us or someone else. Those curses might be to their face in heated conversation, or they might be hushed whispers in backrooms and family rooms; they might be shouted from red-faced verbal combatants, or stealthily emailed or penned, but they are words none the less and James cautions us about this type of speech, "From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so." (James 3:10)

What is the end result of this unwholesome speech? Ecclesiastical Homicide, the murder of a church. No matter the intentions, no matter the desires, or how ardently one believes himself to be accurate, it is never right to blatantly disobey the words of God when we disagree with one another. Doing so, even as an unwilling instrument of Satan, hurts the church, harms the mission, and hinders the message.

Imagine this, if you went to a doctor's office because they advertised a pathway to health, and meanwhile everyone you met there was coughing and sneezing would you believe they could help you attain health? Of course not!

What if you went to an office who promised you weight-loss success and everyone there was 100 pounds overweight, would you believe they could help you lose a few pounds? Probably not!

What if you went to an accountant to help you get your financial house in order and on the way there read in the newspaper that your accountant filed for bankruptcy, would you be confident in his ability to help you? Absolutely not!

What if someone is looking for peace in a world of chaos? What if they have seen that society and culture today has drifted too far away from the law which God has written on their hearts and they want to find a place where the word of God is taught in its truth and purity and people live according to it? What if they came to one of our churches, hoping to find peace and Bible-following people and instead found bitter talk, discord, anger, hate and spite? Would they wish to be a part of that ministry? Of course not!

Dear friends in Christ, we are the victims and many of us are also the perpetrators of ecclesiastical homicide. How do we recover?

Step 1 –stop inflicting the wound: We must heed the words of Jesus. We must follow the direction set before us and let no unwholesome talk come out of our mouths. We must speak to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. We must use our mouths to build one another up not to tear down.

Step 2 – Stop the bleeding: Where we have wronged our neighbor, when we have let wounds come from our lips we need to go to that neighbor and confess our sins and seek forgiveness and reconciliation.

Step 3 – Repair the tissue: Romans 12 tells us to overcome evil with good. We need to do good to one another. We need to love one another just as Christ loved us. We need to look out for the interests of others (Phil 2:4).

Step 4 – Avoid reopening the wound: We need to hold one another accountable. If a person who professes to be a Christian

wanders from the truth and refuses to do what is right, Jesus commands us to lovingly intervene and hold him or her accountable to Scriptures, to gently restore him or her (Gal. 6:1). If one of us is giving the rest a bad name, it is our charge to call them to repentance, to seek forgiveness and reconciliation.

Step 5 – Continue growing: Grow to be like Christ. “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant,” (Phil 2:5-7^{NIV85}) We keep doing what the church does, teaching the Word of God in its truth and purity and living holy lives according to it, and administering the Sacraments, the means by which God forgives our sins and makes us one with Him and with one another, according to Christ’s command.

Recovering from ecclesiastical homicide takes work and it takes time. It will be an arduous process of Christian living and loving our neighbors. It may even take a generation to fully recover, but the blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation will be there for us and for our children’s children as evidence and testimony of the power of God through this conflict.

May God bless these two congregations and His ministry in and through our work. “As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.” (2 Tim. 4:5)

Sanctified to Serve,
Rev. B.J. Fouts

Official Acts

6-20-2015.....
Inurnment of Deborah West
Pastor Francik
Date of death: 12-8-2014
Date of service: 12-13-2014

7-4-2015..... Arlene Lillich
Family graveside service
Rev. BJ Fouts
Date of death: 7-2-2015
Age: 91

7-8-2015..... Louise Loontjer
Funeral and burial service
Rev. BJ Fouts
Date of death: 7-5-2015
Age: 96

7-20-2015.....Lucille Heider
Funeral and burial service
Rev. James P. Moll
Date of death: 7-16-2015
Age: 88

Sunday School



Teachers
Needed

If you are interested in being a Sunday school teacher, please contact Leisa Bohling (402-364-3095) or Lynn Bohling (402-469-1302).

The Lutheran Hour

You can tune into *The Lutheran Hour Sundays* on these stations:

Omaha 1110 AM.6:30 a.m.
Omaha KOIL 1290 AM . 7:00 a.m.
GI KMMJ 750 AM. . . . 7:00 a.m.
Topeka WIBW 580 AM
7:30 a.m. on Saturday mornings
North Platte 107.9 FM8:30 a.m.

or anytime during the week at
www.lutheranhour.org

August 2

"What is Truth?"

Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
Flawed human reason has lost sight of God's divine Truth.
(John 18:38)

August 9

"What do You Think of Christ?"

Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
Everyone seems to have an opinion about Jesus; however, faith is what counts.
(Matthew 22:41-43)

August 16

"The Inevitable Question"

Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
Pontius Pilate asks the question each of us must answer: "What shall I do with Jesus?"
(Matthew 27:22)

August 23

"Faith Faces the Future"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
"If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31)

August 30

"The Truth"

Speaker: Rev. Ken Klaus
God's saving truth reaches out to a world steeped in lies.
(1 John 1:1-3)

Letter from Gary Thies

June 10, 2015

My dear Christian missionary friends at St. Peter,

I dictate this letter to you to one of our dear volunteer secretaries, who is such a blessing as she is donating her time and will donate the stamp for this letter. God sends us special people to help us here at His Mission Central. It has been a difficult week for me and I can't help but think of two Bible verses

this morning. The first is found in 1 Corinthians 2:9 *"No eye has seen, nor ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him."* Yes, we think about heaven because my mom, after 96 years, has gone to be with our Lord, Jesus, and then I thought about the very words of Jesus when He talked to His followers in John 16:16 *"In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me."* That same thing applies to my dear mom as I look forward to seeing her when we are all together in our real home in heaven. That will indeed be a very special and happy reunion. Your kind gift of Love will make a difference and will share the message of Jesus with people in darkness who have not heard about our Savior, Jesus. My mother was such a wonderful example for me in my lifetime and she was always there. I will miss her but I have much joy in my heart in knowing that because of her sincere and deep faith in the Lord Jesus, we will indeed be together again.

I am so grateful for your friendship and your kindness and it is because of dear friends like you, that I can keep on going day after day. I have enclosed pictures that you might find interesting as it gives you a little snapshot of what we are doing every day here at Mission Central. *(pictures are posted on the bulletin board)* I think you will enjoy the picture of my mom at her favorite thing - which was cooking. She loved to cook for people and had the gift of hospitality. We have been so busy here at Mission Central with missionaries coming here like the dear Lehman family that I so much enjoyed. They will be opening new work in Spain, where there is so

much darkness and so many Muslims moving into that area. We must bring light to that darkness so there will be more people in heaven when we get to see my mom again. I would ask for your prayers, as we are so busy here at Mission Central. God has truly placed His hand of blessing on this wonderful miracle.

What a joy to receive your gift of love again this month in the amount of \$335.00 for the direct support of your missionary family in Ghana, Pastor Dale and Suzanne Kaster. They are in the northern part of Ghana and doing such great work to establish a new church there. I am so grateful that you are praying for and supporting this family.

My schedule remains very, very busy this week, as I will be traveling to Arlington, Nebraska, Ida Grove, Iowa, Dodge Center, Minnesota and welcoming two large groups here at Mission Central from Iowa and from North Bend, Nebraska. It will be a very busy week, but God gives us the strength to keep on telling people about Jesus. I can't begin to thank you enough for your wonderful gift of love.

Your Co-Worker for Christ,
Old Missionary Gary

Letter from Laine Rosin

June 27, 2015

Dear friends at St. Peter,

Bob and I hope you are doing well. We continue to think of you often and remember you in our prayers. We also think fondly of our weekend visit to Deshler! Bob continues to do a lot of overseas teaching, though as you know from our last official letter, he is no

longer connected to the mission part of the LCMS. Places he has taught continue to ask him to return, and so he does. In about ten days, he will return to Kyrgyzstan to teach for a month. I think that will be his twenty-fourth trip there. You have heard lots of stories about his students there and the chickens! Now they have new chickens! And new students!

Then in the fall, from late August till early December, he will be teaching both here in St. Louis and at Westfield House in England. He will go back and forth every few weeks or so and teach over the Internet when he is not teaching face-to-face. He will have a total of seven classes. So God continues to open doors!

As for me, I am not sure if you knew that for nearly fifteen years I have struggled with chronic back pain. Lots of treatments and a surgery fourteen years ago never gave me lasting relief. So a year ago I saw a great surgeon at the Barnes Spine Center here in St. Louis. On November 19, I had two spinal fusions and was in the hospital for four nights. Then I came home and had to have somebody babysit me for a whole month. My sister took over for two weeks plus when Bob had commitments overseas. Then after Christmas, he had to cancel a trip to teach in Cambodia and another trip as well in order to care for me. I had lots of restrictions for six months and was off work at CPH for a very long time. My boss and colleagues there have been incredibly supportive and caring. I am so happy to report that I am doing great! I now can go on walks again and stand in church and do things I haven't been able to do for years. I cannot tell you now grateful I am to our heavenly Father for blessing me through the

people who knew how to help me and for so many family and friends who cared for me and prayed for me.

We celebrated our fortieth anniversary on June 21 with a trip to the beach, and it was lovely to be able to go on walks there!

We pray this finds you and your families well and enjoying the summer. Thanks again for your friendship and support all those years. And I would invite your continuing prayers for Bob's students. We all, wherever and whatever we are, have a part in telling the Good News that God loves us perfectly in His Son, sent to save us.

Warm greetings also from Bob.

With Christian love,
Laine Rosin

Lutheran Women's Missionary League Minutes July 2, 2015

President Naomi opened our gathering with prayer.

The roll call was answered by 8 members telling what the Fourth of July means to them.

The minutes of the May gathering were approved and will be placed on file. Barb gave the Treasurer's report and it will be placed on file. Thank-you notes for camperships were read from Hayden Calkins and Kenzie Bohling. Thank-you notes for donations were read from the Royal Family Kids Camp II and Camp Luther.

Naomi reported that we are no longer able to purchase the baby blankets we have been giving out to new babies. It was suggested that we consider making some

small fleece tied blankets as a project.

The old mite box in the Narthex has been replaced by a new smaller one.

Lois and Joyce told us about the National Convention they attended in Des Moines, June 25-28. The convention's theme was Bountiful-Sow-Nourish- Reap. Two buses were filled from our district. There were close to 5000 people in attendance. The mite goal was raised from 1.8 million to 2 million dollars.

Pictures of banners and other event happenings were shared. They had a very busy and fun convention. The 2021 convention was voted on and will be held in Lexington, Kentucky. The next national convention will be in 2017 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

A reminder – the district retreat will be in Grand Island in September.

Our in-gathering will go to the Orphan Grain Train in Grand Island. Workers are needed to help at the Orphan Grain Train in Grand Island. We will check into our group going to help out.

We enjoyed an activity set up by Anita to help "Brighten Our Corner" with light.

Joyce and Pat served delicious Brownie Sundaes with fresh fruit and iced tea.

Ellen and Carol will be hosting the September 3 gathering.

Mites were collected.

Our gathering closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Secretary,
Sheryl Achterberg

LWML Ingathering

Thank you to all who recently donated human care and school items for the LWML ingathering. Orphan Grain Train in Grand Island was the recipient of these gifts of love and will distribute them to people in need around the world. Thank you for helping to improve the lives of others.

Acolyte Robe Volunteer Needed

A volunteer is needed to help take care of the acolyte robes.

Duties include checking the acolyte robes and laundering them if needed. Linda Sorge is doing this and would like a partner.

Thank you to Christina Grace for partnering with Linda in this behind-the-scenes job this past year.

Please visit with Linda to volunteer or to learn what would be involved and how a schedule might be set up.

Coffee Fellowship Sundays in August



Please sign up on the bulletin board if you can make coffee and bring treats. Available dates are:

August 2
August 9
August 16
August 23
August 30

Deshler Lutheran School . . .

A Teacher's Mind

It is time to think about the beginning of the new school year. There are a lot of things to consider: here is a list of things teachers typically wish parents knew. This could help you plan the year and start off on the right foot. The order is negligible.

1. We love your children a lot! This is why we are teachers. We didn't become teachers to crack whips but share and show the fun in learning.

2. If you don't read, your children won't score high in reading or literature. If you say you don't like to read, our job is ten times harder! Share a good book, magazine, newspaper, or anything!

3. We want all students to be successful! There is no cookie cutter for children. Different techniques will work for different students. Give us time to consider a host of possibilities to help your child. We do have favorite techniques to start with, but it does take some time to find out what suits each child best.

4. We want to respect the privacy of all students. I love it when parents come in and talk about their student with me. I feel like we are finding the best way to work together! However, if you start talking about another child, we will steer the conversation in another direction (back to your child!). I know you know their parents, and you're probably right that if they were there they would talk about the same thing. But they aren't there, and you're not their parent. Let us respect their privacy.

Would you like it if I talked about your child with other parents?

5. We are on the same team! Nothing frustrates me more than stressing over how to help a student best and then have their parents come in and yell at me for not being efficient. If I have to worry about how you will interpret or misinterpret everything in class so I don't get "in trouble" with you, then I'm not giving my best to your student. Help me help your child. Come and talk and share in my struggles. I have a lot of students I'm doing this with. It would ease my teaching load to know that we are working on this together!

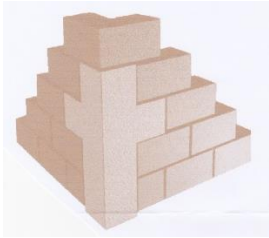
Outreach at the Fair



Naomi Grupe chats with a youngster about her craft a couple of years ago

We are having a booth at the Thayer County Fair in Deshler and are looking for people to help sit at the booth on Wed – Saturday nights, August 5-8. Each shift is just one hour long. If you can help, please sign up at church. Thank you to those who have already signed up. This is an opportunity to tell other people about Jesus, our church, and our Lutheran school!

Open House at Grace Lutheran, Fairbury



*"Living stones...
built up as a spiritual house"*

OPEN HOUSE

Grace Lutheran Church
Fairbury, Nebraska
11th & G Street
Remodel Project

Sunday, August 23

12:30-3:00 p.m.

Coffee & Cake

Tours of the entire project

August Birthdays

Dorothy Holtzen	1
Cameron Schardt.....	2
Bryce Sedlachek.....	2
Melissa Sasse	4
Brooke Sasse.....	4
Taylor Kolling.....	6
Derick Larkins	6
Elaine Schardt	6
Amber Deepe	9
Jill Bauer	10
Dale Endorf.....	10
Addisin Schardt.....	10
Christopher Dunlap.....	12
Elmer Heider	12
Autumn Deepe	13
Joseph Ruhnke	14
Darren Schardt	14
Leah Schmidt	14
Conner Schardt.....	15
Carlee Schardt.....	15
Larry Loontjer.....	17
Jeremy Schardt.....	17
Julene Schardt	19
Rosemary Schnakenberg.....	19
David Achterberg.....	20
Mark Varner.....	20
Anthony Deepe	21

Kenzie Bohling.....	24
Bartholomew Cabrera.....	24
Brian Schardt.....	24
Brendan Lemke	25
Kent Betten.....	26
Cooper Laaker	27
Jon Sunday	28
Hayden Meyer	29
Anna Sunday	29
Tami Finke	30
Gage Genzmer.....	30
Edna Moll	30
Susan Harms.....	31

August Baptism Birthdays

Jeffrey Grummert	2
Eric Hopken.....	2
Scott Laaker.....	4
Dennis Schmidt	5
Patricia Mueller	6
Bruce Finke	8
Reinold Kruse.....	9
Jonathan Peters.....	9
Dale Endorf	10
Janet Larkins.....	10
Kristin Doering.....	11
Metzli Patino	11
Karen Fegter	12
Garrett Genzmer.....	12
Courtney Kounovsky.....	12
Gary Meyer.....	12
Tyson Bauer	13
Roberta Laaker	14
Darren Schardt.....	14
Rod Watson	14
Cindy Watson.....	14
Rhonda Betten	16
Dorothy Holtzen.....	16
Melissa Sasse.....	17
Kolby Finke.....	18
Cale Schardt	18
Cameron Schardt	18
Brynn Bauer	19
David Pohlmann.....	20
Elaine Schardt.....	20
Brooke Sasse	21
Logan Schardt.....	26
Elmer Heider	27
Jeremy Schardt	27
Derick Larkins.....	29

Amber Deepe	30
Taylor Kolling.....	31



Orville & Lois Pohlmann	August 1 46 years
Marvin & Diane Schardt	August 1 39 years
Rodney & Sheryl Achterberg	August 7 33 years
Roger & Jayne Roskilly	August 7 21 years
Brian & Julene Schardt	August 9 18 years
Reinold & Colleen Kruse.....	August 11 36 years
Russell & Sharon Reinke	August 11 20 years
Jonathan & Linda Peters.....	August 12 38 years
Delbert & Pamela Lemke	August 20 44 years
William & Julia Schweer.....	August 23 7 years
Neil & Monica Bohling.....	August 26 20 years
Anthony & Karla Deepe	August 26 27 years
Troy & Colleen Hansen	August 29 23 years
Randall & Tamara Meyer	August 30 35 years