

Peace Lutheran Church

Olive Branch

From Pastor Travis Larsen

The season of Advent is upon us and my mind turns to the traditions of the season. Like many of you my family and I have already put up our Christmas lights and put up our tree. We are preparing gifts and getting Christmas Cards written. There is a lot to do this time of year, but it rarely feels like work. Which I think is part of the magic of the season.

Some of our traditions aren't going to happen as they normally would of course. Getting together for our Christmas Eve service for one thing. Plus, I will miss the gatherings with friends and family. It has been hard to isolate this year, but during the holidays it is particularly bitter. I know that many of you are missing seeing people too and know that I pray for each of you and encourage you to call in to the church if you would just like to visit to alleviate some of the isolation. I am always glad to hear from you.

One opportunity this year provides is the establishing of new family traditions. Perhaps some of you have done this in the past, but my family will be lighting our own Advent wreath at home during the Sunday services and during our Christmas dinner. We have also been looking into some new ways to approach the presents we give and receive. Turning the process into a game, rather than just a free for all.

Maybe you have already thought of

some new traditions, or have some old ones that work well during this strange year. I would love to hear about some of them. Please email me what your family does at pastor.travis@outlook.com. I want to hear about all of the brilliant ways you celebrate the birth of Christ and how you share it with your families. Whether it is an old tradition or a new one, they are always amazing to hear about.

Another one of our traditions has been to let the kids pick off of the church's "ELCA Good Gifts" tree. We won't physically be able to do that this year, but we can still choose some good causes to give too. If you are looking for a place to give here is a link you could check out:

<https://goodgifts.elca.org> It is a good organization where almost all of the money goes directly to those in need. There are many such organizations, so I encourage you to find one that speaks to you and give generously.

One final bit of information I want to make sure I get out to everyone is that we will be doing the Christmas eve service a bit differently this year. For one thing it will be a pre-recorded service which we will put up on the Church's Facebook page, YouTube, and website a few days

before Christmas eve. We want you to be able to enjoy the service with whomever and however it best works for you this year. So if your tradition was to go to the service and then have a special meal you can continue with that traditions. Or maybe, like me, you always like ending that service at midnight? This means you can!

We are trying to put something a little different and special together for our Christmas Eve service, with a lot of help from various musicians, singers, and talents. I want to thank all those that are helping with the service and have helped so much over the past year. It has been a blessing for us all and a joy to worship with you. God bless you all and have a Merry Christmas!

In Christ, Pastor Travis Larsen

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Council minutes November 16, 2020 via Zoom 6:11pm

Present: Pastor Travis, Doug DeBok Janet Wood, Kevin Hale, Mark Stansbury, Carol Doherty, Gayla Eckis, Dena Summerfield and Linda Mattes.

Meeting called to order by President Carol Doherty and Pr. Travis opened with prayer.

Consent Agenda

Pastor's Report: *The best of last month:* Congratulations to our newly confirmed members: Josie Nelson, Ella Guenther, and Tori Estrada! We had an interesting and informative Synod Assembly. Some highlights: there is an effort going on to support native restoration and relationships. It is in the exploratory phase, but it will hopefully produce good relationships. Budget wise the Synod is struggling. They have been drawing from reserves but are trying to reverse that trend. The Adult Ed group and Bible study groups have remained small, but steady. Unfortunately, they will be on hold until after Thanksgiving like the rest of the state.

Upcoming events and activities: The Advent wreaths are being milled this week, and I hope to have them finished and delivered before Advent begins. The return to Lockdown may change things again for the congregation, for now we are discouraging any get togethers. We are working on putting together a pre-recorded Christmas Eve Service. I am trying to incorporate the youth and special music.

Requested actions: the FUMC folks have asked about formalizing our relationship. I plan to be

in talks with the Synod about what that might look like. This has been done by many congregations before.

Visits: These are still largely on hold, though I have been making regular phone calls with some folks who are struggling.

PDF: There have been spotty requests for aid since this all began, but I have helped with some hotel rooms and aid with bills and gas cards. Balance: \$1,681.77.

It was moved by Pr. Travis, seconded by Gayla Eckis to accept the Consent Agenda and minutes of October 12, 2020 Council meeting. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: by Janet Wood. October offering was \$15,414; budgeted monthly amount is \$18,128.00. Income was \$2,714 less than the budgeted amount. The monthly income was more than expenses by \$509.97. Month end bank balance was \$9,452.103. The Sanctuary Fund has \$10,730.02, we will need to pay Pendleton Floors \$9,019. It was discussed about Memorials helping if needed. It was moved by Gayla Eckis, seconded by Pr. Travis to accept the Treasurer's Report, motion carried.

Old Business:

Update on Sanctuary remodel by Kevin Hale. Kevin reported that the painting of the sanctuary is completed. The carpet has been taken out of the sanctuary, A HUGE thank you to Doug DeBok, Brian Zimmerman, Kevin Hale and

crew for working so hard on this. Jim from Pendleton Floors and his crew will remove the carpet from the narthex, offices and stairs.

New Business:

Endowment Committee It was moved by Gayla Eckis and seconded by Dena Summerfield to approve the 3 distributions of funds: Oregon Synod Wildfire Relief Fund \$1000, Salvation Army Pendleton Corps Feeding Program \$2000, N2N motel vouchers program \$1500 by the Endowment Committee. The motion carried.

Update the sign on the corner of 9th and Carden needs some attention, Dena will look at the frame and Mark is checking to see if he still has the paint.

Proposed Budget for 2021

Mark Stansbury went over the budget line by line for discussion. There were suggestions and adjustments, he will bring the revised budget to the next council meeting to finalize and approval for presentation to the congregation.

Executive Session entered 7:09pm and ended 7:46pm.

Synod Assembly overview: Zoom meeting went well, some congregations have hit a wall and money is tight, could be Covid related.

Call lists were changed again.

Endowment by-laws change

It was moved by Gayla Eckis and seconded by Dena Summerfield to present to the congregation at the annual meeting the following change to Peace Lutheran Constitution

and Bylaws, page 24, “ B13.02.08 III. The Committee

The Endowment Fund shall be administered by a committee of three members, who shall be voting members of the committee plus the Pastor (s) and a member of the Congregational Council, who shall be non-voting members of the committee. ***The voting members of the committee shall be elected by the church council and shall serve terms of three years with a possibility of one successive term.*** The first Endowment Committee shall determine a staggering of terms so that the term of one member a year is completed.”

The proposal is to change the italicized and highlighted sentence by removing the word “one” and changing “term” to “terms.” The sentence will now read: ***The voting members of the committee shall be elected by the church council and shall serve terms of three years with a possibility of successive terms.***

Also, since the terms of each member have already been designated, the final sentence of the paragraph can be eliminated. “The first Endowment Committee shall determine a staggering of terms so that the term of one member a year is completed.” This sentence can be

removed entirely. The motion carries.

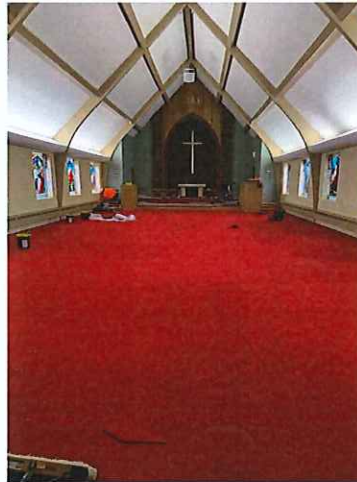
Vacant Council position: If you are interested in serving on the council please let Carol Doherty or anyone on council know.

Review PLC Insurance Policy should be reviewed every third year or so. Pr. Travis and Anna will review the policy.

Announcements, reminders, and updates:

Congregational members updating contact information.

A thank you card for the FUMC donation will be in the office for council members to sign.



A few before and after pictures of the sanctuary remodel.



COUNCIL OPPORTUNITY

As the year comes to an end, so does three of our members' time on the church council. This year we also need to fill two additional positions on the church council.

If you would like to have input with the

decision making process, consider serving on the church council. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Doherty, your current council president.



ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE BYLAWS CHANGE NOTIFICATION

With the recommendation of Church Council, a vote will be taken at the Annual Meeting regarding a change to the Peace Bylaws. Currently three Endowment Committee members are elected by Church Council to each serve a 3 year term, with the possibility of one extra term. Terms are staggered so that one person's term expires each year. In order to provide continuity on the Committee, the bylaws change would allow a committee member to serve additional terms if Council and the committee member agree. According to the Peace Bylaws, members of the congregation must be notified of any proposed change at least 30 days in advance of the vote. The present language and proposed changes are as follows:

Peace Lutheran Constitution and Bylaws, page 24, " B13.02.08 III. The Committee

A. The Endowment Fund shall be administered by a committee of three members, who shall be voting members of the committee plus the Pastor(s) and a member of the Congregational Council, who shall be non-voting members of the committee. ***The voting members of the committee shall be elected by the church council and shall serve terms of three years with a possibility of one successive term.*** The first Endowment Committee shall determine a staggering of terms so that the term of one member a year is completed."

The proposal is to change the italicized and highlighted sentence by removing the word "one" and changing "term" to "terms." The sentence will now read:

The voting members of the committee shall be elected by the church council and shall serve terms of three years with a possibility of successive terms.

Churches Beyond Borders – Advent Call to Address Racism and White Supremacy.”



John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Mark 1:4).

In the wilderness and in the river, on the margins of society, John the Baptizer offered faithful witness to the ongoing work of God. People went beyond the borders of their familiar lives to hear the words of a prophet, to seek renewed faith, to begin new journeys and to be transformed through baptism.

What does it mean to offer faithful witness today? As we ponder this question together as national church leaders, we experience shared challenges, new insights, mutual encouragement, deeper faith and common callings. Our common witness is bound not by ecclesiastical or national borders but by our common baptism. As leaders of four churches on a shared continent, and with shared complicity in the legacies of the Doctrine of Discovery, the enslavement of Black people and the mistreatment of all people of color, we hear the prophets and the Spirit speaking clearly when we listen together.

This Advent, we feel called to name the truth that the sin of racism and white supremacy is ongoing. People continue to be subjected to and oppressed by these systemic evils, even within our own churches and the ecumenical movement.

For the sake of our common mission and witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ, we share a commitment to dismantling racism and combating white supremacy, and we actively seek opportunities to engage more deeply. We bind ourselves together in this work, even as we are bound together by a common history of complicity with evil. We look forward to meeting with members from the Black, Indigenous and other communities of color with and beyond our churches to help us develop specific goals and actions. We know this will not be easy, but it is essential. It happens only by moving beyond the borders of the familiar, encountering the truth, trusting God’s grace and being transformed. We have much to learn from and with each other. The birth of Christ to dwell among us holds the hope for our own rebirth. Our faith is in God’s ongoing work that establishes God’s kin-dom of equity, equality, justice and liberty for all. Our calling is to prepare the way of the Lord by embracing truth, promoting healing and acting in love.

As you make your Advent preparation this year, what do you need most? Forgiveness, repentance, healing, renewal of baptismal vocation, time in the wilderness or a word from a prophet? We are confident that God will grant us all that we need to be transformed for faithful witness.

Let us pray:

God of all, form us into churches beyond borders.

When we feel stuck, amplify the prophet’s word.

When we are distracted by privilege, put us in the wilderness.

When we need a new way, dunk us in the river.

When we are wrong, move us down the path of truth-telling and repentance.

When we need healing, sustain us with your love and hope.

When we cannot see beyond ourselves, move us beyond arbitrary borders.

NEWS FROM THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The Peace Endowment Committee, with the approval of Church Council, has recently made two more distributions to help the needy in our community on behalf of the congregation. The Salvation Army has incurred extra costs this year as they

have provided take-out meals rather than having people come into the facility to eat. \$2000 was donated to help with their Feeding Program. Covid-19 has also affected Neighbor 2 Neighbor and the operation of the Warming Station. \$1500 was donated to help provide motel vouchers for the cold nights

this winter. Thanks to everyone who has donated to the Endowment Fund. Please consider making a donation in honor of a friend or relative this year at Christmastime. It's always the right size!



Christmas Poinsettias

In spite of the disruption of our sanctuary and worship gatherings, we still intend to decorate the altar area with poinsettias for our Christmas service. We can order our poinsettias now until Dec. 13th. They are \$15 each, and may be taken home after Christmas, or delivered to you if you prefer. Proceeds from our holiday flower sales will be added to the sanctuary improvement fund. If you wish to participate, this is what our Altar Committee needs to know:

Your name: _____
 _____ Plants in memory of _____
 _____ Plants in honor of _____
 _____ Plants in honor of our newborn King _____



Poinsettias are \$15 each. Please make checks payable to Peace Lutheran Church and earmark "poinsettias", and mail or deliver your order to the church office by Dec. 13th.

Thank you for your support, and for making our sanctuary beautiful for the holiday season.

New Things at Peace

- New sound and audio system is installed
- Sanctuary has a new coat of paint
- Carpet has been installed in the narthex, the offices and sanctuary



Upcoming Dates to Remember

December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

December 25 ~ Christmas Day/Office
Closed

December 27 ~ Drive thru Communion

December 28 ~ Office Closed

December 31 ~ New Years Eve

January 1 ~ New Years Day

January 18 ~ Martin Luther King, Jr

January 31 ~ Drive thru Communion



As the end of the year is fast approaching, Please make sure the office has your updated address if you have moved this year or if you are a new/returning member.

If you are a committee member your article for the annual report will be coming

**We thank you for
wearing a mask.**

**It shows you care about
those around you.**

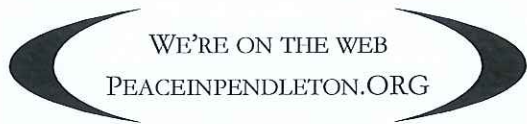
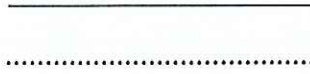




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CHURCH

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PEACEINPENDLETON.ORG

Advent

Preparing for 2020:
Living in Hope

