



August 2018

## Tidings of Peace Newsletter

*Scrip orders due - Sunday, August 5 (first Sunday of each month)*

*Vacation Bible School – Saturday, August 18*

*Congregation Bake Sale – Sunday, August 19*

REV. JOHN R. HANSON, PASTOR  
Peace Lutheran Church (a place of welcome...)  
Church Office 715-684-2770  
welcometopeace.org  
[peaceoffice@baldwin-telecom.net](mailto:peaceoffice@baldwin-telecom.net)

Join us Sunday mornings!  
**Worship at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.**

## **PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

President – Bruce Ashlin  
V. President – Wayne Miller  
Secretary – Laurie Mueller  
Treasurer – Rich Carlson

### **Board of Deacons**

Joan Ford  
Peder Parizek  
Jim Hauschild, Jr.  
Jeff Schulke  
Sue Gillis  
Carla O'Connell

### **Board of Trustees**

Rich Cronk / John Vrieze  
Jena Kaiser / Derek Miller  
Jon Veenendaal  
Char Vrieze

### **Board of Education**

Amy Jurgens  
Brittany Porembo  
Cristy Peavey  
Shelley Wynveen  
Stacy Shafer / Leah Smith

### **Board of Stewardship**

Jim Hauschild  
Kathy Miller  
Jan Hanson  
Heather Serier  
Scott Brushaber  
Sherry Neisius

### **Women of Peace**

Shirley Rode

### **Logos Team Builders**

Heidi Dumond  
Jennica Driscoll  
Renee Dykhouse  
Julie Hanson  
Amy Larson  
Carla O'Connell  
Heather Serier  
Kari Wangen

### **Usher Committee**

Ken Rimer

### **Youth on Fire**

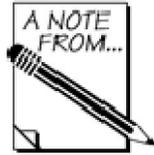
Laurel Carlson

### **Director of Family Ministries**

Pauline Wangen

### **Staff Support Committee**

Leann Huston / Chris Corrigan  
Jerry Emmert / Abbey Arndt  
Angela Mathison / Jayne Rimer



*...my perspective (words from our President)*

## **Our Calling**

Each day I take a moment and read the daily devotional offering from the booklet "Christ In Our Home." These booklets are available at Peace to anyone who would like to have one. They are in the narthex on a table against the wall. Each day it provides a daily story that includes scripture along with a concluding prayer. Daily I read and reflect on the meaning of the story/verse and try to see how it fits into my everyday life.

Recently, I read the June 11 entry and it really caused a stir in me. The reading discusses the idea that there are times in our life when we are sent by others where we really don't want to go. I recall times in my life that this was the case. I was sent out of the classroom, sent to the bench in sports, kicked out of a group of friends... You get the idea. My worst experience didn't involve being sent, it involved being dropped. I'm referring to being dropped in the batting order. As a baseball player, I always hit first or second in the lineup. When I relocated and joined a new team, I was forced down in the lineup to batting ninth. I guess I had to prove myself all over again. For me, this didn't work (ego)! I had a terrible experience and never recovered to a level of performance that I was used to. So, my time with that team was short-lived. I spent the rest of my playing days with another squad, crossing paths with my former team carrying vengeance in my heart!

In the second paragraph of the June 11 reading, the author identifies a static faith as a faith that never moves or changes us. Faith (through the Holy Spirit) is what forces us out of our comfort zone and into situations where God is sending us. Living with a static faith disables our ability to identify when and where God is calling us to action.

How does my example from above connect with a static faith? When I was sent to this new community and ball club, God challenged me to work through this scenario with character and dignity. In those days, I was handicapped with no guidance through faith. With that being said, I did not allow myself to accept the challenge; I allowed the circumstances to control me. I stayed static and expected the situation to conform to me rather than the other way around.

I have lived a life of little or no faith and understand how a person may become self-absorbed in their own world, having nothing to cling to except their own perception of each circumstance and having a limited supply of skill and ability to deal with what happens regularly. I am now living a life of faith, but I have a difficult time understanding how people will talk the talk, but not walk the walk (static). I believe that we all have God Given Potential to do extraordinary things and opportunities are out there. So, I encourage everyone to allow your faith to change you and help make the world a better place, one calling at a time.



Bruce



## CHURCH COUNCIL

June 19, 2018

**Call to Order:** Bruce Ashlin at 7:00 PM.

**Attendance:** Bruce Ashlin (President), Wayne Miller (Vice President), John Hanson (Pastor), Kathy Miller (Stewardship), Gloria Rasmussen (Guatemala Mission), Shelley Wynveen (BOE), Kari Wangen (LOGOS), Rich Cronk (Trustees), Amy Hutchins (Office), Rich Carlson (Treasurer), Laurie Mueller (Secretary).

**Adoption of the Agenda:** Move/second, Rich Carlson/Gloria, carried.

**Next Meeting Date:** August 21, 2018 7:00PM.

**Devotions:** Amy (everyone has gifts) Jody has August.

**Secretary's Report:** Accept as written in the newsletter. Move/second, Laurie/Kari, carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** As printed on the agenda, moved/second, Laurie/Kathy, carried. May Benevolence: Guatemala Mission.

**Reports:** Executive Committee didn't meet. Thank-you cards received from Nancy for benevolence to His Arms and from Summer Food and Fun for benevolence given to them. **Pastor John:** Friday, June 22, the mission trip is leaving for NY. Assistance will be needed for the service while he is gone. Talked about putting ministry in auto pilot, showing up and hoping it runs itself. Wonderful work is being done, but more people need to step up. What one person could do in 1960, now takes 14 people. Prayers wanted for safe travels and a good group dynamic.

**Trustees:** Work Sunday a lot was accomplished, and a lot

more needs to be done. The lawn mower went, and a used lawnmower has been purchased. Stage panels were sold. The bus still needs to be sold. Now is the time for the parsonage update. **Stewardship:** Will meet in August to discuss 2019 themes.

**Education:** Discussed VBS August 18<sup>th</sup>, 3 years to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. God is my super hero. Egg roulette made around \$200. May 5<sup>th</sup> will be the end of the year for Sunday School 2019. Discussing Rally Day September 9<sup>th</sup>. This will be the last year for Jody with Sunday School.

**LOGOS:** Training was good. Things to work on this year - need kitchen help and table parents, finding good people and how to approach them. Teachers still needed and plan to work on generational relationships. Finances are good.

**Deacons, WOP, Youth:** No representatives.

**Old Business:** Need to talk to Ken Rimer in August or September about the Usher Committee. Do not believe a new Church Directory is needed right now. Mentoring Program - Leann discussed at first service and Pastor John at second service. We need to be the eyes and ears for each other to match up those who need help with those that can help.

**New Business:** Signers for the loan renewal will be Pastor John Hanson, President Bruce Ashlin, and Treasurer Rich Carlson. Motion/second, Kathy Miller/Rich Cronk, carried. Have a letter of intent for the Youth Leader position; Pastor John will speak to them.

Motion to adjourn/second, Pastor John/Shelley. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Laurie Mueller



## BOARD of EDUCATION

June 4, 2018

**Present:** Cristy Peavey, Jody Ramberg, Brittany Poremba, Stacy Shafer, Amy Jurgens, Leah Smith.

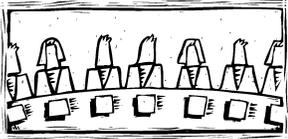
**Next Meeting Date:** Monday, August 13th at 6:00PM.

Egg Roulette raised about \$200. Next year we will have egg roulette before or after the program. End of Sunday School year will be Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. Tabled discussion of memory work, rally day, snacks until the August meeting.

**Vacation Bible School:** August 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-11:30AM. For 3-year-olds through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. \$5 per participant. Theme:

"God Is Our Super Hero." Kids may come dressed in their own super hero costumes. Tentative schedule: 8:45 – 9:00 – Registration, and kids decorate superhero mask name tags as they arrive / 9:00 - 9:15 – Opening welcome given by Pastor John / 9:15 – 9:35 – Bible lesson / 9:35 – 10:00 – Popsicle stick craft / 10:00 – 10:15 – Snack (bomb pops, cheese sticks, oranges, pretzels, lemonade) / 10:15 – 11:25 – Activities (obstacle course, capture the villain, "I think a super hero is..." board) / 11:25 – 11:30 – Closing prayer given by Pastor John. Items we already have: construction paper, popsicle sticks, hula hoops, tunnels, pool noodles. Items needed: silly string, mask supplies (Jody to order from Oriental Trading).

Respectfully submitted, Cristy Peavey



## BOARD of TRUSTEES

### BOARD of TRUSTEES

June 12, 2018

**Present** – Jon Veenendaal,  
Amy Hutchins, Rich Carlson,

John Vrieze, Wayne Miller, Rich Cronk, Derek Miller and Jena Kaiser. **Call to Order** – Chair Derek Miller called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**Next Meeting Date** – Tuesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**Approval of Secretary's Report** – John Vrieze moved and Jena Kaiser seconded approval of the secretary's report. Motion moved.

**Treasurer's Report and Approval** – John Vrieze moved and Jena Kaiser seconded approval of the treasurer's report. Motion approved.

**Old Business** – Mission/Work Sunday was held on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Numerous projects were completed. Thank you to everyone who helped! There are still a few projects that need to be done which include interior painting, shed repairs, fascia and soffit repairs, and the removal and replacing of front sidewalk. Derek Miller and John Vrieze will work together to complete the front sidewalk project. Lindus has agreed to repair the shed that was damaged this winter. There is someone lined up to help with some of the painting inside the church. The siding and windows on the parsonage also need to be replaced before fall. Rich Cronk will contact Dave Lee to see if he can replace the fascia and soffit and, if so, get a quote from him. Derek Miller will contact and work with Lindus to see what the best pricing we can get would be to do vinyl siding and new windows on the parsonage. The old playground has been removed. Aaron Paulson is going to give Amy information on possible playground options for Peace. A group of people met with Mark Falteisek from Westconsin Credit Union regarding our loan on June 8. John Vrieze made a motion and Derek Miller seconded approval of choosing the 3-year option at 4.75%. This will guarantee that our interest rate will be locked in at 4.75% for 3 years. This 3-year stretch will begin in mid-August. The Board of Trustees will be looking at how we can best manage our accounts to pay down on the loan. Amy will be emailing the trustees with account balances. Also, an anonymous member of Peace has offered to match up to \$50,000 for funds that the congregation generates to help pay down on the loan. This "challenge" begins now and goes through

mid-August. Thank you! Char Vrieze was not in attendance, however she emailed to say she is still in contact with Focus on Energy. She has not received a response from them yet.

The Baldwin Legion purchased the 8 panels of staging and the cart for \$2,800. They have the staging panels and will come to pick up the cart soon. Rich Cronk sold the red trailer and a riding lawnmower for \$500. He is still in the process of selling the old bus. The old John Deere lawnmower that Paul Ramberg used to mow the cemetery, was no longer working. Jason Lynum gave us \$200 for the old lawnmower. Paul is currently using a 48-inch lawnmower from the Woodville Cemetery Association. The Woodville Cemetery Association will be meeting to decide if they would sell us the lawnmower we are using for \$4,000. Rich and Brenda Cronk will donate \$1,000 towards the purchase of the new lawnmower. Derek motioned and John Vrieze seconded approval to purchase this lawnmower if the opportunity arises.

Derek Miller will work with the board of Stewardship for a Fall Fun Day. Derek Miller will bring a quote for an overhead door for the shed. The board will discuss the overhead door when we get closer to fall.

**New Business** – Rich Cronk will be price shopping for the best price on fuel pre-buy. Rich Cronk discussed the importance of getting the undercoating of the new bus done before winter. Wayne Miller will be in contact with someone to get a quote for this. We received a quote from Summit for fire extinguishers, fire alarms, and sprinkler system annual inspections and testing. We will compare what we currently pay and decide at our next meeting. Our current contract with Simplex Grinnell is up in August. Summit would also be doing our emergency system monitoring that Simplex does now. During our one of our fall meetings, we will take a closer look at the perpetual care funds and cemetery account.

**Folder Items** – We received a letter from the special education department at the BW school district. They currently are using one or two of our mobile, accordion walls, which we use for the Silent Auction and other events. Their letter asked if they could keep the wall/s at the school. The board of trustees decided the walls should be brought back to the church and remain at the church.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jena Kaiser

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### BOARD of TRUSTEES July 10, 2018

Present were Pastor John, Amy H, Char V, Jon V, John V, Rich Carlson and Rich Cronk.

Next meeting is scheduled for 8-14-18. (cont.)

John V made a motion to accept the Secretary's report and Jon V seconded that motion.

Rich Carlson presented the updated Treasurer's report and after discussion Jon V made a motion to accept the report and Rich Cronk seconded the motion. We'll be inviting Paul Ramberg to come to the August or September meeting to give our committee an update on the workings of the cemeteries and how it impacts our budget.

There were lengthy discussions about ongoing maintenance projects happening at the church and Jon V made a motion and John V seconded that motion to accept the bid of \$3,100 from Lee Construction to install new maintenance free soffits on the building.

Rich Cronk made a motion and it was seconded by Jon V to reopen the decision made at the last meeting to recommend locking our interest rate for three years. After much discussion Jon V made a motion and it was seconded by Rich Cronk to lock our interest rate on the building loan to a five-year rate instead of the three-year rate.

Rich Cronk has narrowed our intent to pre-buy our LP to two companies and will make a recommendation at our August meeting.

The Stan Hanson family has made a generous offer to sell Peace Stan's lawn mower and all of its attachments for half the value that it's appraised for. John V made a motion and it was seconded by Char V to proceed with this purchase. Rich Cronk will be merchandising some of the equipment that we own that isn't in use to pay for the majority of this purchase.

Rich Cronk reported that our old bus has been sold.

Staff and program responsibilities were discussed, and the members of the Trustees are excited about potential uses of the mission money that we were gifted. More discussions about new programs will happen between the Trustees and the Council going forward.

Rich Cronk made a motion and Char V seconded that motion to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, John Vrieze



## LOGOS BOARD June 13, 2018

**Prayers:** Julie led prayers for the LOGOS ministry and for positions we need to send letters of call to fill.

**Next Meeting Date:** July 11 6:30 p.m.

**Next board member to attend council meeting:** June 19, 7:00 PM Kari Wangen.

**Bible Study:** New curriculum was ordered for next year for the sixth-grade level. Amy will be sending letters of call to her bible study teachers for next year.

**Recreation:** Heidi Dumond will lead the 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades, John and Monica Polk will lead the 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grades, Renee will lead the 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> grades. Each leader will plan the activities for their grade levels. Julie will meet with the Polks to go over the information and ideas for Recreation Time.

**Family Time:** Carla will find additional kitchen help for the earlier portion of the meal prep on Wednesdays. Parents will also be assigned to the kitchen rotation if they don't have another area that they are helping in. Kari will begin sending letters of call to table parents.

**Worship Arts:** Julie has the choir schedules created for next year. The LOGOS program will be on March 3<sup>rd</sup> next year because of how Lent and Easter fit into the schedule. She will meet with Kim to discuss J Crew.

**Nursery/Childcare:** We are currently sending letters of call for a supervisor and helpers.

**Financial Report:** Amy will be tracking our finances through the office this year. She created a spreadsheet with our year-end report that shows that we had a balance of \$859.11 after transferring the dessert auction money into the scholarship fund. We decided to put a cap on how much scholarship money we will let accumulate in the fund of \$1000.00. Any extra funds at the end of the year will be given to the church toward special projects or where there is a need. We also discussed the need for board members and others making purchases to turn in receipts to Amy as soon as possible so that she knows that it is a bill for LOGOS as she tracks our money and pays the bills each month.

**New concerns:** Report from training - Julie, Kari, and Cynthia shared about their experience at training and why we do what we do at LOGOS. We discussed the call process again and the positions we need to fill through this process and then started brainstorming names of people that we felt matched the descriptions of the positions that are open. We held a short discussion on classroom control and doing a youth covenant for the first night of LOGOS.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Julie Hanson

## LOGOS BOARD July 11, 2018

**Prayers:** Julie led devotions with prayers for the LOGOS ministry and for the positions we need to send letters of call to fill.

**Next Meeting Date:** August 22 at 6:30 p.m.

**Next board member to attend council meeting:** July (no meeting). August 21 7:00.

**Bible Study:** Amy is in the process of calling bible study teachers for the fall.

**Recreation:** Heidi, Renee and Monica are planning activities for the fall.

**Family Time:** Carla and Kari have chosen the themes and menu for the coming year. Kari is in the process of calling table parents to eat and visit with the kids in LOGOS.

**Worship Arts:** Kim Thomason will be leading the J Crew Choir again this coming year. Julie and Kim met to talk about the choir schedule and begin planning for the LOGOS program in March.

**Nursery/Childcare:** Bella Ashlin has agreed to run this portion of the evening. Julie will meet with her to go over the details and responsibilities.

**Financial Report:** We created a budget for the coming year. We used a starting point of 40 kids in the program at \$135 each and then portioned that amount out into the four areas of our program. We discussed how this is a starting point and it can be changed as we see the need.

**New concerns:** Carla will be checking into new playground equipment with a couple other members.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Julie Hanson



## BOARD of DEACONS July 15, 2018

The Deacons met between services on the 15<sup>th</sup> to assign duties for August.

Those in attendance: Jeff, Joan, Jim Jr, and Sue. We talked about Pauline Wangen and the job that she would be doing to coordinate education plans and to possibly start a drop-in nursery for children or for day drop off of senior adults. At this time, we aren't sure which

need will present itself first, so we are fluid, but we all agreed that this would be of benefit to our church.

The Deacons wish to thank those that help the services to work smoothly. Those are musicians, acolytes, greeters, lectors, Communion assistants, ushers, counters, and those that help with coffee and treats for between services. We appreciate your help to make OUR church work smoothly. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Gillis

## WOMEN of PEACE DATES

**General Meeting / Work Day** – none in August

**Joy Circle** – 1:30 p.m., Thursday, August 9, at Church. Pauline Wangen will be joining us to talk about her new position as Director of Family Ministries. Shirley Rode is hostess.

## Vacation Bible School

The summer has gone by quickly and August is here!! We are really excited for Vacation Bible School, and it is not too late to sign up!!

**"Jesus is our Super Hero" (wear your favorite "Super Hero" costume) is coming Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 - 11:30am at Peace Lutheran Church, for ages 3 years to 5th Grade. (6th Grade and up can be helpers). The cost is \$5.00. Registration forms are in the narthex and in the church office, or you can register the morning of Vacation Bible School.**



Please remember the **Food Pantry**. The “Lord’s Cupboard” is at the north end of the Fellowship Hall. Food may be dropped off anytime the church is open.



<b>FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT</b>			
<i>Weekly</i> budgeted expenses (w/mortgage)	\$ 8,468	<i>YTD</i> budgeted expenses (06/30/18)	\$ 216,649
<i>Weekly</i> income (07/15/18)	\$ 7,813	<i>YTD</i> income (06/30/18)	\$ 219,047
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$ - 655</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$ + 2,398</b>
<b>01/01/18 Loan Balance</b>	<b>Mortgage Payments/Month</b>	<b>07/24/18 Loan Balance</b>	
\$ 826,316.97	\$8,184.00	\$697,057.98	

# ATTENDANCE

	8:00	10:30
July 1	58	48
July 8	75	80
July 15	41	156
July 22	54	??
July 29	48	35

**CANS and CARTRIDGES** - We collect aluminum cans and inkjet and deskjet toner cartridges as fundraisers for the Building Fund. We cannot take laserjet cartridges. Cans can be thrown in the trailer at the north end of the farthest parking lot (up by the new shed) and cartridges can be left in the box in the entry by the office.

**AUGUST SCRIP ORDERS** - The August deadline for ordering Scrip is **Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>**. Orders will be ready for pick up on Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. **Debit/credit cards may also be used to pay for scrip orders. Use the card terminal in the narthex** (directions are located next to the unit). To place an order, simply complete your order form (blank forms are at the Scrip station in the narthex and on our website – [welcometopeace.org](http://welcometopeace.org)) and place it in an envelope along with your **cash, check or debit/credit card slip**. Place your envelope in the wooden Scrip box located in the middle church office or in either of the drop boxes. If you have any questions regarding the Scrip program and how easy it is to use, please contact Sharon Hauschild 715-307-2531 (cell). Thank you!



### **Gifts and Memorials**

Gifts were received in memory of Bob Hansen, Leland Wilson, Muriel Rasmussen, Carolyn Hanson, Stan Hanson, Alisa Norvold Leonard, Lucille Leto, and Doug Hamlin.  
 Gifts were also received in honor of Joe Paulson and Willy & Carol Zevenbergen’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They were given to the Love of Peace, General Fund, Debt Challenge, and Building Fund.

**PEACE MENTOR PROGRAM** – Anyone that might be in need a mentor or know of someone else that might be, or anyone interested in being a mentor and getting more information about it, please reach out to Leann Huston at 715.556.2129 or [lhuston13@yahoo.com](mailto:lhuston13@yahoo.com).



1 - Heather Martino - 2 - John Thompson/Amanda Fields - 3 - Rachel Gardner/ Carson Lunde/Nicole Benck - 4 - Duane Newton/Andy Syring/Amy Jurgens/ Austin Borowicz - 8 - Zane Feidt - 9 - Rane May/Denise Corrigan/Kyle Walker - 10 - Amy Larson - 11 - Mary Bergseng/Chris Hillstead/Shane Grinley/Warren Rust - 12 - Denise Paulson/Wyatt Bennis - 13 - Derrick Nix - 14 - Tim Purington /Pete DeLong/Emily Newton/Bryce Schoenke/ Hunter French - 16 - Pam Edwards/Andy Jensen/Bridget DeLong - 17 - Marie Ista - 18 - Barb Ramberg/ Ashley Fields/Kasen Walton - 19 - Arik Feidt - 21 - Cynthia Niebeling/ Chanelle Marsh/Nicolina Salaba - 22 - Don Rode/Dick Ulrich/Cindy VanSomeren - 23 - Jan Hanson/Brynn Feidt/Lori Schoenke/ Laura Thompson - 26 - Matthew Niebeling - 27 - Christian Lunde - 28 - Jon Veenendaal/Rich Carlson/Mark Roemhild - 29 - Nate Altendorf - 30 - John Hanson - 31 - Louise Schumacher/ John Lamb

## AUGUST CALENDAR

**Sundays, August 5 / 12 / 19 / 26 – 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Worship**

Thursdays, August 5/12/19/26 – 9:30 a.m. Prayer Time

Sunday, August 5 – *Scrip orders due*

Sunday, August 5 – 9:15 a.m. Board of Stewardship

Thursday, August 9 – 1:30 p.m. Joy Circle (at Church)

Monday, August 13 – 6:00 p.m. Board of Education

Tuesday, August 14 – 9:30 a.m. Worship @ BW Apts. / 6:00 p.m. Board of Trustees

***Saturday, August 18 – 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. Vacation Bible School***

Sunday, August 19 – *Congregation Bake Sale*

Tuesday, August 21 – 7:00 p.m. Church Council

Wednesday, August 22 – 6:30 p.m. Logos Board

Sunday, August 26 – 9:15 a.m. Board of Deacons

## \* \* \* BULLETIN BOARD \* \* \*

**RALLY DAY - Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 9, for Rally Day, our first day of Sunday school!!** Registration forms are in the narthex and in the church office, or you can register on Rally Day. If you would like to help by being a substitute or special teacher, please let Jody Ramberg know at [jody@bilha.org](mailto:jody@bilha.org) or 715.977.0593. Thank you!

**SCHOOL ITEMS FOR GUATEMALA** - The Guatemalan Mission Team is collecting the following items: glue sticks, pens, pencils, colored pencils, color crayons (24 pk), coloring books, rulers, pencil sharpeners and youth scissors. If you are willing to help us out, we would greatly appreciate donations before the end of September! There is a box on the round table outside Amy's office for donations. If you have any questions, please call Gloria at 715-698-4155. THANK YOU!

**CAREGIVER CONFERENCE** – Friday, Sept. 28, 8 to 3:30 at WITC in New Richmond. This is for family caregivers and professionals. The day will include light breakfast and lunch, speakers, vendors, and door prizes. For more information or to register call 715-246-6561 x4221 or go online to WITC.

## A Home...

Good morning! For those of you who do not know me, my name is Rachel, and I am Pastor John's eldest daughter, and I have been blessed by this congregation my entire life. Growing up with the title "pastor's daughter" came with a lot of expectations, extra parents, and a strong feeling of constantly needing to succeed in the ever-present spotlight (or fishbowl as some people put it). Don't get me wrong, being the doctor's kid, or the superintendent's kid, or anyone's kid can bring the same feeling, but I think you get the point.

I never realized how blessed I was by the community that is present here in our church until I had my first experience on my own. I had extra cheerleaders at my sporting events, many moms and dads at my concerts, and endless hugs when I felt like I had failed. The friendships that have lasted through ups and downs started and grew here at church - from being in my best friend's wedding to watching another friend become a father. It all started here in our small group high school bible study, and I under-appreciated every moment. I felt like I wanted something different and new. Heading off to college with the opportunity to pave my own way gave me a lot of freedom, but some of the qualities that I definitely received from my mother pushed me to keep some things the same to make an easier transition. One of those was going to church. I started to church shop on Sunday mornings, I got involved in the campus ministry programs, attended extra events held by a youth program but something felt wrong. I realized what it was like to be the invisible member in the back of the congregation who had to drag themselves to worship on Sunday morning and was the first to leave when the service was over. I wanted to come back home to the place where kids attack me as I enter the doors and I am embraced by so many people I love each Sunday morning. I experienced what it was like to not have a church home. This was definitely the biggest challenge in my faith. I was making excuses to not go, making poor choices when I felt guilty to hide the true feelings, and I tried hiding from God.

Now this is no Jonah in the belly of the whale situation, but I was desperately looking for my second chance without knowing it. After I graduated from Winona, I moved back home with no specific plan in place. I was nannying for people who I now call family and started looking for another job to help pay for the swamping of student loans. While reflecting on my time at Winona and the feelings that I was getting about not having a church home while I was there, I started looking at our church through a different perspective. Who were the people who felt they wanted to bolt the second the service was done not just because the sermon went too long (love you, Dad) or the Packers were on (go, Pack, go), but the ones that wanted out because they never felt like they had an in. How could they be reached in this beautiful place? I felt called to be the person who gave those individuals a home, and it started with a spotlight on the high school population.

High school is a trying time of life. Watching these students who are worshiping technology without knowing their true addiction gave me hope about finding ways to serve this lost generation. Don't get me wrong, you all are thinking I am in that generation, and yes, yes, I am, but it gave me drive to grow with these individuals and help them find a new meaning to their faith journey and a direct path to their future. We used technology-based bible studies to focus on topics that the high schoolers were struggling with as well as spent nights bonding over honest conversation with kids from four different school districts in a safe space where a community was formed and friendships were made. We made a home, a safe space, a comfort in a place where a lot of them had been a lost face in the crowd before.

I watched students struggle with mistakes I made. We grew as individuals and I was asked, "What can I pray for you?" from a sophomore in high school without someone prompting them to do so. How many of you thought to ask an adult that while you were in high school? We formed a family with a group that may have looked like the land of misfit toys, but all our hearts found a common connection and a purpose within our time together. In my two years as the high school youth leader, I feel that my faith story got a new start. It was no longer the faith that was served to me on a platter through my Sunday School teachers and parents, it was officially mine. Now my faith is far from perfect and I am still trying to find a lot of answers but forming this home space here has shaped me into a better leader, listener, and follower of Christ.

But with every home comes a challenge which is what I want to leave you with. I challenge you all to find that person who needs a helping hand or a welcome to this place. You might be the one change in their faith story that brings them closer to finding their home away from home. Be the change in the world that has been forgotten. Help create a better home for them and you!

Today I start a new adventure. I am moving to Thompson Falls, Montana to teach Kindergarten through 4th grade Special Education. I don't know anyone in this town, and I have cried enough this week to fill a saltwater aquarium because I am going to miss so many people here, but I am so excited to start fresh and form my new home. I don't know yet who will need extra eyes to keep them on track or which individual will need a crazy me cheering their name above the rest at the sporting events, but I will be the support system to others that you all have been to me. You all are my family, and a piece of my heart will always be here, but it's time to find my new home - or create it - on my own. Thank you for loving my quirky, sarcastic, high energy kid-loving self. Thank you for giving me a home.

**PEACE, PASTOR JOHN'S ELDEST DAUGHTER'S PEN**

### **SILENT AUCTION COMING SOON!**

As I'm writing this it's a beautiful summer evening. The sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, and the flowers are blooming. But it's time to remind all the members of Peace that before we know it, autumn will be here, and it will be time for the Annual Silent Auction. This will be the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Silent Auction! So, let's make it a special one!

Think about what you can donate. Is it fresh garden produce? Hand crafts – knitting, card making, quilts, stained glass, pressed flowers? How about homemade jams, jellies, breads, cookies, pies, cakes, holiday cookies and candies? Maybe it's a meal with your family at your home? You could get to know other members of Peace better that way! Maybe you are a wonderful woodworker, or you could donate your time and the use of some equipment or tools to help others. How about offering to baby-sit, rake leaves, clean house or other services you are good at and others may love to bid on? Other popular items in past years have been time at your cottage/cabin/lake home/timeshare. Think about what you bought in past years and enjoyed and how you might be able to donate those items this year.

If you have read this far, I thank you for doing so. If you are wondering what you can donate if none of the above seem to be a good fit, then please remember what a silent auction needs more than anything... **BIDDERS!** Without bidders we have nothing. So please think about not only donating auction items but bidding on items donated by others.

Thank you ahead of time for your donations and your bids! - - - The Silent Auction Committee

**LIVING THE FIVE BIBLE STUDY** - Together we will discover how the principles in *Living the Five* will give us the life we long for and the relationships God wants for us. During this five-session study we will learn the five principles based on the Great Commandment and the Great Commission: 1) You can't do life alone / 2) Growing people change / 3) Saved people serve people / 4) Found people find people / 5) Worship is a lifestyle. Join us on the following Thursdays from 10:15-11:15 am or 6:30-7:30 pm September 13, 20, 27, October 4, 11. Books will be available (freewill donation). For more information please contact Pauline Wangen [pauline.wangen@gmail.com](mailto:pauline.wangen@gmail.com) or 651-210-5106.

**FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY** The fall session of Financial Peace University will begin Sunday, September 23 at 6pm. You don't have to be "broke" to take this class! Everyone should take this class: people who either graduated or dropped out of high school / college students / college graduates / single people / married people / parent(s) with young kids / parent(s) with teenagers / parent(s) with college students / empty nesters / retirees. Did I miss anyone? Everyone needs this class! The class costs \$100 and will meet every Sunday evening for 9 weeks. Please contact Lisa at 715 688 9618 or sign up for the Peace Lutheran class on [daveramsey.com](http://daveramsey.com). Childcare can be available if you let me know you need it! NO EXCUSES!

