

## **PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God our Father and Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

“If one part suffers, every part suffers, all the member suffer it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.” I Corinthians 12:26

In Cambodia, a young girl is shot to death for wiping human spit off a Bible. In Pakistan, a former muslim cleric is arrested, tortured for a few years and then condemned to death to be hung for telling people about Jesus. In China, men come to arrest a pastor. His congregation surrounds him trying to protect him. Additional armed police are called in. The pastor is removed and the women are molested. Bibles are confiscated and destroyed.

Independence Day is my favorite holiday. I love the fireworks, the concerts, and reading the Declaration of Independence. We have a family tradition of watching the musical 1776.

As Americans we have the opportunity to worship and serve God without fear of retaliation or persecution. Preserving those freedoms has cost many dearly, starting with our founding fathers.

In many places serving Christ, studying His word, even owning a Bible is illegal.

In the Lutheran Church in Sudan, seventeen pastors serve 150,000 church members spread out among 200 congregations.

What do you think the persecuted church would say to us who take our freedoms for granted? How nice, they must think, it must be to go to Bible study and not be afraid of your door being broken down and threatened at gun point. They might tell us how blessed we are not to have armed men forcibly search our homes to see if we have a Bible with the intent of throwing us in prison or executing us on the spot. We might be told we must have the most Christians of anywhere in the world because we can tell others about Christ without fear of the death penalty.

There is a part of the body of believers that suffers daily. That is always in constant danger. We should be supporting them in prayer and by other means as God gives us opportunity.

Christ has set us free and by the power of the Holy Spirit gathering us together we are one in His church. He is the head. We are the body. Part of the body suffers for following Christ. They and we are part of the same body. What they pray to one day be able to do, we have been blessed with the ability to enjoy already. But at the very least we should not take for granted the blessings of freedom we enjoy that they are literally dying to have.

Let us make the best use of the freedoms we enjoy for Christ's sake and the sake of our neighbors and ourselves.

To start a bible study or to participate in one, talk to me, email or call the church office. To start a prayer team or participate in one, talk to me, email or call the church office. To witness to someone, go talk to your neighbor, relative, stranger, or friend. If you're not sure how to start the conversation ask God in prayer or ask me and I will help you.

Let's celebrate our Christian freedom and our religious freedoms in this country by fully exercising them! Christ set us free from sin and made us His own. He placed us in the world's melting pot so we could reach the nations. He made our country free that we could do His work without fear!

Let freedom ring!

SDG,

Pastor

If you have a prayer need or praise to share, or to start/participate in a bible study or prayer team, please contact Pastor or Amy Betts in the church office anytime at 570-703-0607.

# News of The Lutheran Academy!

*Working in partnership with God's people to raise up a new generation of faithful Christian men and women!*



## 8th Grade Graduation

On Thursday, June 10th, four students graduated from The Lutheran Academy: Janique, Trent, Jaelyn, and Vincent.

Speaking at graduation were salutatorian, Trent Mancini, and valedictorian, Janique Stubbs. After receiving their diplomas, Pastor Bode prayed over each student. We are so proud of these graduates! Janique and her family have moved out of the area, and we will miss them. The other 3 graduates have plans to attend Holy Cross High School this fall.

We ask you to lift up in prayer the futures of these students as they move on to high school and beyond.

## Academy Needs

We have begun the summer declutter of classrooms and take inventory of resources. The board and staff so appreciate the generosity of donors to the school. In the

past we have been asked to share a list of supplies big and small that are needed at the academy. Here a few items we need. If you know someone who has an item they are looking to part with or if you would like to sponsor the purchase of an item, please contact Amy Betts at the school. Thank you so much!

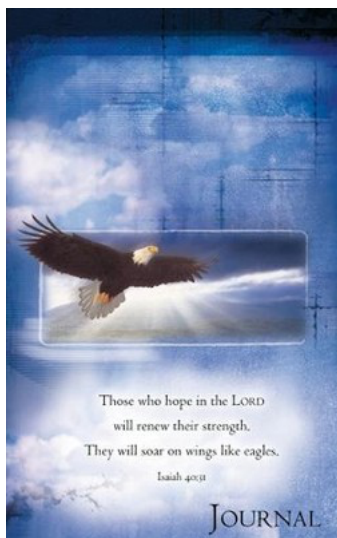
- One Large American Flag for the common area
- Three Magnetic wall-mount whiteboards - 8ft by 4ft
- Two large wall-mount bulletin boards - either 4ft by 5ft or 4ft by 6ft
- Bookcases of any size
- Clear plastic tubs for education material storage and organization
- A Train Table or other play equipment for the Kindergarten room
- Wooden puzzles and other puzzles with large pieces (24 piece maximum)



A special thank you to these four academy graduates who came back to assist at graduation. Pictured from left to right: Nora Betts (2018), Lara Kane, Ella Axtell and AJ Roman (2020). These TLA alumni helped get the graduates in their caps and gowns, and then handled the serving and cleaning up of the post-graduation refreshments.

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. ~1Peter 4:10-11*

Remember to ask: "How can I pray for you?"



Last month you were asked to think about the questions: Why do people do bad things?

How did you answer the question? Did you surprise yourself with what you wrote? Was it a response you were proud of? Does the way you live reflect how you responded or was how you answered very different from how you live?

Your question for July is:  
**Do people have a choice in what they do or is what they will do already predetermined?**

Make sure to place the date and your thoughts on the page. If you would like to discuss them with Pastor that would be great! If you want to keep them to yourselves that is fine as well. You may also want to note whether you prayed for anyone that day and whether you read the Bible at all that day. Don't worry about how few or how many pages you use each day. At the end of the challenge, Pastor will ask you to share some insights from the challenge anonymously for inclusion in the newsletter.

(The questions I am asking you are inspired by Questions on the website of the New Jersey District of The LCMS written by Rev. Dr. Anthony Steinbronn, author of a book on worldview.)

#### + HYMN OF THE MONTH: **#655 Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word**

In 1541, the Turks were on the verge of taking Vienna. German rulers asked for special prayers for protection from the Islamic attackers. Luther's response was this hymn. Luther, however, was convinced that the church was in danger from the Pope and Turk. His original first two lines of the first verse read: Lord keep us in Thy Word and work, Restrain the murderous Pope and Turk.

After the threat to Vienna ended the words were changed to speak of all enemies of God's word.

The hymn/prayer is sung with a verse directed to each person of the Trinity.

As we face such challenges in our own lives, the hymn points us to ask God to preserve what is most important. It doesn't ask to protect health, wealth, reputation, or life. It asks that we would be kept in faith and that God's word would remain among us until we are led "out of death to life."

#### **SUMMER HOURS**

One Sunday morning service at 9:18am.  
Saturday service will continue at 5:00pm.

### June Fundraiser: **Pot Roast Dinner**

On Saturday, June 5th from 4:00-6:00pm Jim Calpin once again delighted our tasebuds with his delicious pot roast dinner, all to support the work of Peace Lutheran Church.

We are pleased to share 63 meals were served!  
Thank you to all who volunteered, made desserts,  
and to all who purchased tickets.

#### **JULY**

##### Birthdays

Zach Wilson	6
Joann Roberts	11

##### Baptism Birthdays

Tanya Babbitts	3
Ky Betts	14

Dear Pastor Babbitts and the Saints at Peace Lutheran:

We were very touched by your kind note of encouragement informing us that you recently prayed for our congregation. It has been a long, hard, trying year, watching our attendance decline due to Covid related fears. We are broadcasting our services online, and a year later families and individuals are slowly returning to in person worship. We are thankful we were never told that we couldn't have services, and that our initial limiting of persons at live worship was entirely voluntary. We have now lifted all restrictions. We pray that your congregation is healthy and like ours blessed to have not lost any members to the pandemic. Your congregation is obviously blessed with a faithful shepherd with a heart for prayer. We in turn remembered you in our prayers on May 23, and we are thankful that we have a sister congregation that appreciates our fellowship as a Synod, walking together in faith. May God supply all your needs in our all sufficient Savior, Jesus Christ!

In His love,  
Pastor David Deardoff, Sr.  
Blessed Redeemer Lutheran Church, Brandon SD

---

## Adopt-A-Chap Program

Good Afternoon Pastor Babbitts,  
I wanted to reach out and introduce myself. I was connected to you through the Mission for Armed Forces "Adopt a Chap" program. My name is Rob Nelson. I am currently a Chaplain in the Air Force and serve at Nellis AFB in Las Vegas Nevada. I am relatively new to the Air Force. I was a volunteer missionary in Japan for 2 and half years with my wife Nicki and then after Seminary, served at two different churches in Michigan over 15 years. I had to get an age waiver when I entered Active Duty at 43. I have 5 kids ranging from 17 to 4.

Nellis has been called the "heartbeat of the AF" by some, since we have the Weapons Schools, which train the best of the best. We are also home of the Thunderbirds and some very large training exercises that involve training with Ally nations. As a chaplain, I can be assigned to serve a variety of units, but currently I serve the Maintainers (Mechanics) who keep all the fighter jets flying. I will be moving this summer, a bit sooner than I expected, to Pope Airfield in Fayetteville, NC. It is nestled next to Ft Bragg, the largest Army Post in the U.S. and home of the 82 Airborne and Special Operations. I'll be starting up a new position there.

I appreciate your partnership and would appreciate any prayers you could offer for my upcoming move and the transition for my family. I also would appreciate prayers for the Airmen and maintainers that I care for as a new chaplain comes in. Airmen are under a lot of stress at this base and Chaplains have a very important role in caring for spiritual needs and also listening and offering advice as they navigate relationships, decisions and life.

I'd love to hear more about your ministry at Peace as well.

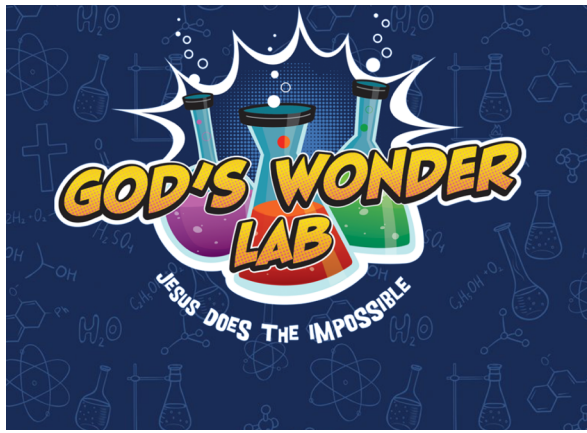
God's Blessings,  
Chaplain Rob Nelson

The coloring page in the newsletter each month can be turned in and we will send them to the residents at The Gardens at Greenridge where our beloved Audrey Russell lives.



God Bless You! From your friend \_\_\_\_\_ at Peace Lutheran Church.





## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 16-20 from 5:30-8:00pm

**Our God can make the impossible possible!**  
**He does marvelous things!**

A science lab conducts experiments that explain how things are possible. In Jesus' ministry, He did things that are impossible. His greatest miracle of all was dying on the cross and rising from the dead for our salvation. At God's Wonder Lab, discover that Jesus does the impossible for us.



Faith Babbitts, Monica Fornaszewski and Trent Mancini were confirmed on Sunday, June 20th at the 9:18am worship service.



The confirmation verse selected for **Melisa** is 2 Corinthians 12:9 - *But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.*

Melisa spoke about how her christian education shaped her and her desire to serve as a Sunday School teacher at Peace. We look forward to supporting her in this new role in the fall.



The confirmation verse selected for **Faith** is Galatians 2:20 - *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

Faith shared about evangelism and her heart to work in that area of ministry here at Peace. A prayer walk is just one example of an activity she would like to begin and will be inviting members of Peace to join her as she reaches out into our community.



The confirmation verse selected for **Trent** is Ephesians 2:10 - *For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

Trent shared he would like to learn more about programming and create a video game for teens to help them affirm and grow their faith. We look forward to watching and encouraging Trent as he pursues this passion.





Mark your calendars . . . coming in **AUGUST**

## Chicken **BBQ** Dinner Fundraiser

Watch for full details including menu, ticket cost, date, and time in future bulletins, on our Facebook page, and on the What's Happening page at [www.yourpeace.org](http://www.yourpeace.org).



# JULY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Look Ahead . . .	Vacation Bible School August 16-20 from 5:30-8:00pm			1	2	3 5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion
4 4th of July 9:18am Worship Service with communion	5	6	7	8	9	10 5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion
11 9:18am Worship Service	12	13	14	15	16	17 5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion
18 9:18am Worship Service with communion	19	20	21	22	23	24 5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion
25 9:18am Worship Service	26	27	28	29	30	31 5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion



# JULY 2021

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

## PRAAYER CALENDAR

Pastors and Congregations in South Dakota

4

Rev. William  
Heerman, St. John  
Lutheran Church,  
Wagner, SD

5

Rev Dean Schroeder,  
St John Lutheran  
Church, Tyndall, SD

6

Dr. Peter Kurowski,  
St. John Lutheran  
Church, Montrose, SD

7

Rev. Gregory  
Hinnners, St. John  
Lutheran Church,  
Norris, SD

8

Rev. Nathan  
Neugebauer, St. John  
Lutheran Church,  
Revile, SD

9

Rev. Bret Bierman, St  
John Evangelical  
Lutheran Church,  
Aberdeen, SD

10

Rev Thomas  
Christopher,  
St Martins Lutheran  
Church, Alexandria,  
SD

11

Rev Ray Greensteth,  
St. Paul Lutheran  
Church, Draper, SD

12

Rev Samuel Bobby,  
St Paul Lutheran  
Church, Aberdeen,  
SD

13

St. Paul Lutheran  
Church, Leola, SD

14

Rev Lloyd Redhage,  
St Paul Lutheran  
Church, Ferney, SD

15

Rev Bradley  
Lessman, St. Paul  
Lutheran Church,  
Plankinton, SD

16

Rev Brian  
Mosemann, St Paul  
Lutheran Church,  
Scotland, SD

17

Rev. Terry Makelin,  
St. Paul Lutheran  
Church, Freeman, SD

18

Rev. Thomas Brown,  
St. Paul Lutheran  
Church, Spearfish,  
SD

19

Rev Bret Bierman,  
St Paul Lutheran  
Church, Stratford, SD

20

Rev Gregory Hinnners,  
St Peter Lutheran  
Church, Midland, SD

21

Rev. Kenneth Soyk,  
St Peter Lutheran  
Church, Emery, SD

22

Rev Adam Welton,  
St Peter Lutheran  
Church, Wentworth,  
SD

23

Rev Bret Bierman,  
Trinity Lutheran  
Church, Mansfield,  
SD

24

Rev David Strable,  
Trinity Lutheran  
Church, Blunt, SD

25

Rev Bradley  
Lessman, Trinity  
Lutheran Church,  
White Lake, SD

26

Rev Nabil Nour,  
Trinity Lutheran  
Church, Hartford, SD

27

Rev Martin Herzberg,  
Trinity Lutheran  
Church, Corona, SD

28

Rev William  
Heerman, Trinity,  
Lutheran Church,  
Fairfax, SD

29

Rev Thomas  
Christopher, Trinity  
Lutheran Church,  
Spencer, SD

30

Rev Wade Harr,  
Trinity Lutheran  
Church, Reliance, SD

31

Rev Matthew Nix,  
Trinity Lutheran  
Church of the Deaf,  
Sioux Falls, SD