

*Peace Lutheran Church
Linton, ND*

Pastor's Article

I don't know when our congregation's mission statement was formulated but it simply reads, "Welcome people in, help them grow, send them out to care." For our summer newsletters, we are going to briefly look at what I assume is implied by our mission.

The first phrase is "welcome people in." Every church wants to be welcoming and hospitable, but it is also something that many churches don't do well. Within a church's doors, the temptation is to congregate and socialize with those you already gravitate towards. Sunday morning is the time you catch up with your neighbors and friends to discuss the events of the previous week and plans for the coming one. This, of course, is not a bad thing, but its easy to miss catching the name of the newcomer as they slip out the door.

But shaking hands and getting the name of someone new to worship is just surface-level welcoming. To declare "welcoming people in" as part of our mission is to do it as Christ did. One of the many issues the religious elite had with Jesus was with the people he welcomed in. "And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" (Mark 2:15-16).

Christ welcomed the worst of the worst into his presence. He collected imperfect people into his presence from every corner of society; each one of them sinners. This doesn't mean he approved of their sin. Instead, he provided a place where sinners could safely confess their sin, receive forgiveness, and then be told to "go and sin no more." (John 8:11. See also Luke 19:1-10).

So what does "welcoming people in" look like for our congregation? First, the job of welcoming isn't relegated to someone assigned to be "greeter" for that particular Sunday. We are all "greeters". See someone new in

June 2026 Newsletter

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*Proud member of the Northern Plains
District of the LCMC*

Our Mission Statement

***WELCOME** people in
Help the **GROW**
Send them out to **CARE***

Welcome ~ Grow ~ Care

worship? Introduce yourself and get their name. See someone who looks like they are struggling? Ask them what's up. Let them know you care and would like to pray for them. Are you out and about and know someone who could really do with hearing the Gospel? Invite them to worship.

"Welcoming people in" isn't complex. Jesus gave us the template. Let's run with it.

In peace,
Pastor Sean

Church Council Meeting Minutes Summary for May 13th, 2026

Council members in attendance: Mark Heidrich, Kevin Heer, Lisa Hendrickson, Deb Jahner, Jason Rossow, Shelly Serr, and Jennifer Vetter. Members not in attendance: Wayde Bauman, Gunnar Hanson, and Pastor Sean Barnhart.

Pr. Barnhart's report: Finished Adult Bible Studies on Galatians and Titus (Adult Bible Study will resume in the fall), Finished Confirmation classes for the spring, Held Mornings at Peace (April 15), Held Youth Group (April 15 and May 13), SCC Chapel Service (April 23) and Memorial Service (May 11), Mailed April newsletter, Two visits with Holy Communion, other pastoral home visits/calls in April and early May, Baptized Hayes Wilder Jochim on May 10.

Property Committee report. Jeepers Sweepers provided a quote for sealing open cracks/seams and painting parking stalls for \$9,380 in the parking lot. If additional work is needed to address slumping or uneven surfaces, Mark Heidrich will ask him to contact the council with a bid prior to the repair. Shelley Serr made the motion to approve the \$9,380 quote from Jeepers Sweepers to be paid from the Building Fund (current balance \$26,239.25). Kevin Heer seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried. Lisa Hendrickson made a motion to reimburse Pr. Barnhart for the cost of the replaced wash machine in the parsonage from the Parsonage Fund (current balance \$2,076.62). Mark Heidrich seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried. Kevin Heer discussed the Bethlehem Cemetery fencing project. Stanley Nauman is willing to help identify property lines. Kevin Heer will donate the five foot fence posts and use of his equipment. He presented a quote from NoDak for the remaining material cost, approximately \$880. Lisa Hendrickson made a motion to approve the fencing project from the Cemetery Fund with the General Fund covering the dollar amount the cemetery fund cannot cover. Kevin Heer seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried. Kevin Heer discussed the church's south side facia replacement project. His son, Christian Heer, offered to donate his time and labor to the repair. The project would have a material cost, only. Christian Heer discussed potential material costs with the Lumber Yard. Mark Heidrich made a motion to approve the church's south side facia replacement project and expressed thanks to Christian Heer for his generous donation of labor and time. Shelley Serr seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried. The Council discussed the TKE Elevator Corporation Quarterly Surcharge for Fuel.

No reports from Stewardship, Worship, and Evangelism Committee's. Education Committee reported VBS is scheduled June 2-4, 2026.

With no old or new business, the meeting adjourned at 8:06pm. The next meeting is Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 7pm.

Mission of the Month

In April, our congregation sent \$899.00 to **The Spiritual Orphan's Network**. Thank you for your faithful giving!



Daily Scripture Readings

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Psalm 119:105

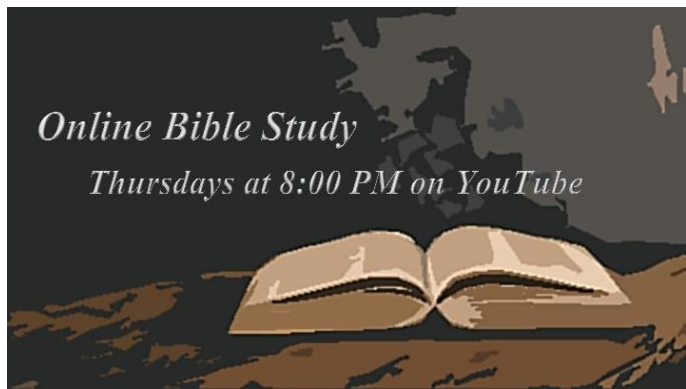
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | June 1st Matthew 5:1-5 | Matthew 5:6-12 | Matthew 5:13-16 | Matthew 5:17-20 | Luke 6:1-5 | Luke 6:6-11 |
| June 7th Ruth 2:1-23 | Luke 6:12-16 | Luke 6:17-26 | Luke 6:27-31 | Luke 6:32-36 | Luke 6:37-42 | Luke 6:43-49 |
| June 14th Ruth 3:1-18 | Matthew 7:1-6 | Matthew 7:7-12 | 1 Samuel 16:1-5 | 1 Samuel 16:6-10 | 1 Samuel 16:11-13 | Luke 1:46-55 |
| June 21st Ruth 4:1-22 | 1 Samuel 16:14-23 | 1 Samuel 17:1-11 | 1 Samuel 17:10-18 | 1 Samuel 17:19-30 | 1 Samuel 17:31-40 | 1 Samuel 17:41-54 |
| June 28th Esther 4:1-17 | Luke 9:23-24 | Esther 5:1-8 | | | | |

Save the Date!
**Northern Plains District
 Convention and Youth
 Gathering**

The Northern Plains District of the LCMC is planning the first Annual District Gathering for Friday, July 31st – Saturday, August 1st, 2026, at Charity Lutheran in Bismarck. Running alongside this event will be a District Youth Gathering also at Charity. Both events will begin Friday evening and go through Saturday afternoon.



Memorials received as of May 14th:
 *To the Refinishing Fund from Violet Ohlhauser in memory of Jeffrey Erickson
 *To the Building Fund from Candis Wagner in memory of Jeffrey Erickson



Thrivent Choice Dollars
If you are an eligible Thrivent Financial member and have Choice Dollars® available to direct, please consider directing them to your church. For more info or to direct Choice Dollars, call 800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice” or log go to thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

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From your App Store**

Need a Ride to Worship?

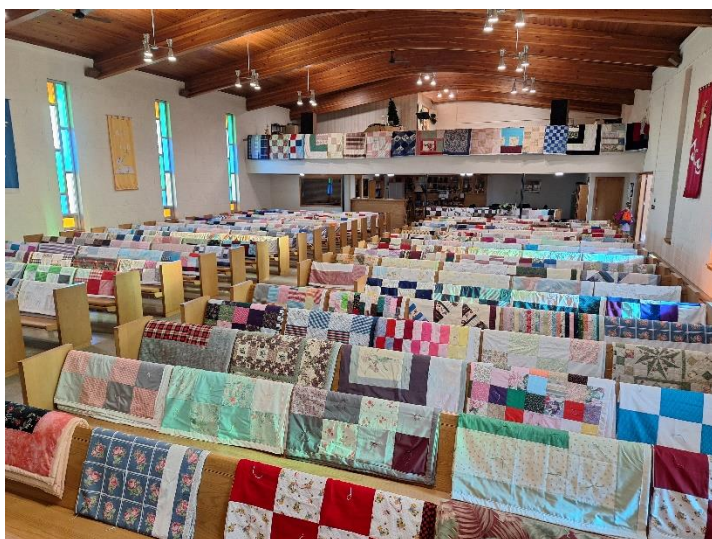
If you are in need of a ride to worship, please call the church. If you are able to give rides to worship, let the office know!



HONOR SOMEONE WITH FLOWERS

A donation of **\$40**, will provide two arrangements of flowers to be placed in the two vases behind the altar or for **\$30**, a larger single arrangement displayed at the front of the sanctuary.

If you would like to supply flowers for a certain Sunday, call the office or speak to Evelyn Petrick. Specify the date you would like flowers displayed and let them know the special occasion and how that info should be listed in the bulletin.



Once again, this year's quilting was very successful with 230 quilts made. We thank all the ladies so dedicated to sewing these beautiful creations. The ladies we owe our gratitude to are Lil Kunz and Linda Tschritter, co-chairmen; Barb Nieuwsma and Marge Dykema from Hull; Patty Tschritter from Strasburg; Kimberly Heitz, Vonnie Erickson, Erma Wohl, Shelley Serr, and Candis Wagner from Peace Lutheran; and Carol Weigel, Jill Bosch, and Melanie Kelsch from other churches in town. Because of the tireless effort of these ladies, we have so many lovely quilts each year.

We also thank the youth who brought all the quilts up from the basement and for Pastor Sean for taking the quilts to Bismarck. To everyone who donated fabric and sheets and to those who purchased the quilts for personal use or for gifts, thank you. Our quilt project would not be successful without everyone's help in some way. God bless all of you for all your effort.

Mission of the Month: Strasburg Care Center Building Project



The following comes from Robert Shecker, Administrator of the Strasburg Care Center.

On behalf of Strasburg Nursing Home, a non-profit, faith-affirming nursing home dedicated to compassionate care for the elderly, we humbly come before you with a request for prayerful consideration.

Our current facility has reached capacity and no longer fully meets today's healthcare and accessibility standards.

Due to increasing need within our community, we are preparing to construct a new nursing home that will **improve safety, accessibility, and comfort; create a more home-like, healing environment; and strengthen our ability to extend Christ's love to the elderly.**

Any contribution – large or small – will directly help us care for vulnerable seniors and continue this ministry for generations to come. Caring for the elderly is a sacred responsibility (Isaiah 46:4, Proverbs 16:31). Through your partnership, we can uphold the dignity of aging and ensure no senior walks this season of life alone.

Country of the Month: Uganda

Uganda was colonized in 1885 by the British before gaining their independence with little struggle in 1962. Unfortunately, this independence was followed by political conflict. In the 1970s, the country was torn apart by a horrific dictatorship. During Idi Amin's brutal reign, roughly 300,000 citizens were slaughtered, and thousands of Asian citizens were expelled. In 1987, the Lord's Resistance Army devastated Uganda with terror and violence. Led by Joseph Koni, this rebel group killed over 10,000 people and was known for capturing children to use as soldiers, porters, and sex slaves. President Museveni came to power in 1986 and was later elected five times in a row. But political corruption remains a reality to this day. More recently, almost 800,000 South Sudanese have fled to Uganda – home to one of the world's largest refugee camps (Bidi Bidi). While many see Uganda as a safe haven in a war-torn region, 21% remain without safe drinking water and 87% without clean sanitation facilities. Ugandans also daily face the difficult realities that come with food scarcity and a lack of education opportunities and resources.



Uganda enjoys freedom of religion. The majority claim Christianity (85%), and Islam is the second largest religion (11%). Converts from Islam to Christianity often face persecution from other Muslims and their family members. Nominalism, secularism, materialism, and a lack of unity continue to afflict the Body of Christ. Yet the Ugandan Church is large, and response to the Gospel has been substantial. Many ministries are providing aid to those in need while also sharing the Good News.



June Baptismal Celebrations

- 3 Gianna Caruso
Lorraine Wagner
- 8 Rafe Kalama
Emsley Randle
- 9 Erica Hoff-Wald
Violet Ohlhauser
Brynn Huber
- 12 Michael J. Kunz
Derrick Naumann
- 13 Janice Baer
Cooper Vander Wal
- 15 Madisyn Ohlhauser
Troy Roemmich
- 16 Michael Werlinger
- 17 Kaylyn Hendrickson
Quinn Roemmich
- 18 Barb Bosch
- 19 Wyatt Mastel
- 22 Boston Bodvig
- 23 Benjamin Krogstad
- 24 Karen Welk
- 25 Heidi Schmidt
Harper Werlinger
- 27 Jody Ohlhauser
- 28 Dawson Werlinger
- 29 Madison Ptacek
- 30 Gregory Humann

June Birthdays

- 1 Michael J. Kunz
Jody Ohlhauser
- 2 Alex Bartholomay
Cooper Mastel
- 7 Paisley Grossman
- 8 Quinn Roemmich
Logan Ferderer
- 9 Marley Click
- 10 Sydney Giese
Ryan Ohlhauser
Lisa Ptacek
- 11 Sandra DeBoer
- 12 Hayes Hanson
Fran Heidrich
- 13 Michael Lee
Jett Beitelspacher
Casey Vander Vorste
Evelyn Ferderer
- 15 Janelle Schlosser
- 16 Barbara Haas
Janell Ness
- 17 Barbara Robinson
Janice Ohlhauser
Terence Serr
- 19 Masen Brueckner
- 23 Ettalynn Stuckle
Arlene Wagner
- 24 Evelyn Nieuwsma
- 25 Beckham Spotts
- 26 Bear Bauman
- 28 Erin Huber
- 30 Jill Schmidt

"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

Psalms 139:13-14