



The Compass of Peace

Peace Lutheran Church, February 2018

FROM PASTOR CAREY

Come Camping with Peace

Winter retreats and summer camp are not just a week or weekend of fun, they are faith forming experiences for our children and youth that last a lifetime. Bishop Eaton, *ELCA Presiding Bishop*, says, "Our Lutheran Outdoor Ministries provide places to engage people of all ages with the beauty of God's creation and programs that enrich faith formation. These camping and retreat opportunities allow space and time for deeper reflection on relationships and promote unique leadership skills in young adults. Our church camps and retreat centers are a gift to the ministry of the ELCA and vitally important in the development of faith and care for creation."

Often when we think of camp with Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio (LOMO), we think fun, swimming, games, sports, nature hikes, creek stumping, camp fires, but camp is so much more than just fun activities. At camp, our children and youth get to unplug, not just from their electronic devices but also from the pressure of busy schedules and peers and the perceived judgment from friends and family. They have the opportunity to try new things and consider new possibilities for their life and faith. They get to experience how we live together as a faith-filled community as they meet new friends. They have the opportunity to increase the number of positive adult role models in their lives as they interact with counselors, support staff, and adult volunteers. They also learn some responsibility and independence as they spend a week away from parents under the watchful eyes of camp staff. They face the challenge to try new things and think deeper about their faith which builds character as well as confidence. Our children and youth also have the chance to encounter Jesus and learn what it means to be disciples as they practice the faith discipline of individual morning devotions, prayer at meals, and evening group devotions. They participate in daily Bible Discovery and Chapel as well as learn how it is that our faith permeates our daily lives and informs our friendships, fun, and fellowship.

Camp is not just about the fun. Jacob Sorenson in his thesis "A Theological Playground: Christian Summer Camp in Theological Perspective" says, "The camp experience does not function on its own but rather as part of a complex web of meaning making in the life of each individual participant. Christian camps are a place set apart to facilitate relational encounters between the self, the other, and God. Camps are considered places of ministry and deep theological reflection where participants are free to explore their beliefs in the safety of a nurturing Christian community and are awakened to a hyper-awareness of God's activity in the world."

He also found that one benefit of Christian camping is that those who attended religious summer camps as children or youth are over three times more likely to remain active in their faith communities five years later than those who did not attend a summer camp (Sorenson, Jacob. "The summer camp experience and faith formation of emerging adults." *Journal of Youth Ministry*, 2014.)

What are you waiting for? Come and join Peace as we head to camp.

Confirmation Camp (grades 7 - 8) February 16-18 at Lutheran Memorial Camp

Fun in Faith (grades 2 - 5) February 23-24 at Lutheran Memorial Camp

Summer camp at Camp Mowana with Pastor Carey July 8-13 for an exciting week of Summer Camp as a Pioneer (grades K - 2), Pathfinder (grades 3 - 5), trailblazer (grades 6 - 8), or as a Western Riders (grade 3 - 8).

FROM PASTOR STEVE

The Lenten season is a time for self-examination, repentance, and confession. It is also a time to take stock of our relationships: our relationship with God and with others. As sinful human beings, we feel the weight of broken relationships with God and with others and long to restore them to wholeness. As we walk together toward the cross, we discover ways to restore our relationships through justice, faithfulness, trust, limits, love, and forgiveness. Therefore this Lenten season Our Worship series will be called **"Restoring Relationships."**

Within the general theme of Restoring Relationships, we will explore the themes of faithfulness, trust, limits, love, and forgiveness in worship on weekends. We will focus on these themes as well at weekly Wednesdays afternoons throughout Lent from 12:15-12:45, followed by a soup lunch. There will also be a Faith Formation class that will delve further into the theme of the week, taught by Pastor Steve.

Lent begins on February 14 with Ash Wednesday. We will offer a worship service at 12:15, followed by a soup lunch, and our evening Ash Wednesday service at 7:00.

I hope that this series will be a blessing to us all.

Peace,
Pastor Steve

FROM LINDA LALLY

VBS donations needed: We are planning for VBS this summer. We are looking for donations of the following items: Newspaper, clothes pins, plastic tablecloth with flannel backing. A bin will be in the narthex. If you have questions or would like to volunteer for VBS please see Pam Hillard or Pastor Carey. Upcoming in Lent: During the season of Lent, we will be exploring singing the Psalm during the 8:15 Heritage service.

The Lenten Devotional Guide for this year will be available at the Welcome Center and on the website on February 11. Walk with us this season of Lent as we explore Restoring Relationships.

Blessings, Linda

MINISTRY NEWS

FEBRUARY 11 – MARCH 18 Pastor Steve will lead a group in the fellowship hall for adult faith formation and focus on the theme for the week from our sermon series called *Restoring Relationships*. The Lenten season is a time for self-examination, repentance, and confession. It is also a time to take stock of our relationships: our relationship with God and with others. As we walk together toward the cross, we discover ways to restore our relationships through justice, faithfulness, trust, limits, love, and forgiveness. We will explore the themes in our time together.

FEBRUARY 11 – MARCH 18 Pastor Carey will be looking at the book *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a renowned Christian minister, professor, and author of *The Cost of Discipleship*, recounts his unique fellowship in an underground seminary during the Nazi years in Germany. Giving practical advice on how life together in Christ can be sustained in families and groups, *Life Together* is bread for all who are hungry for the real life of Christian fellowship. Please sign up at the welcome center if you would like to purchase a book through the office for \$11.00. We encourage you to begin reading prior to our first class.

YOUTH BOARD BASKET FUNDRAISER: On **Saturday and Sunday, March 10 – 11 and 17 -18**, the Youth Board is requesting donations for our Basket Raffle Fundraiser. This fundraiser will benefit our youth as they anticipate heading to Houston, Texas, for the 2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering. Congregation members are encouraged to donate a basket or individual items which can be grouped together to create a basket (e.g. DVDs, gift certificates, spa items, etc.). Please bring your donations to the church office between February 24 and 25. Help support our youth as they join to gather with thousands of youth in Houston for a once in a life-time experience.

FROM KEVIN PYLE

Supporting the Mission of Peace

We have several ways you can use to help financially support the Mission of Peace. The first is, of course, through your weekly offerings. There are yellow envelopes in the pews for you to use if you desire. We also offer "Simply Giving" which is an on-line service that can be set up for one time giving or recurring giving. Over one hundred families use this service.

In addition, we have added some new services. One is the kiosk at the Welcome Center. It's the black box near the activities monitor. The kiosk normally shows the General Fund, Building Fund, and Flowers Fund. We add and remove other funds to the display as our needs change. If you don't see the fund you want, use your finger to scroll the display up. You can choose one of the set amounts or select another amount. Instructions are also at the kiosk.

Another service we've added is PayPal. If you've made an on-line purchase from Home Depot, JC Penney, Bed, Bath & Beyond, or one of hundreds of others you probably saw the PayPal option. The church web site has the "QR" code on it as well as a direct link.

At the bottom of our home page, www.peacebeavercreek.org, there is a link to all the ways you can help support the Mission of Peace. It looks like this:



Just click on the picture and you'll be taken to our giving page. In addition to direct giving, you can also support us through Kroger Community Rewards and Amazon Smile.

There are so many ways Peace Shares Christ, Serves Community, and Grows Disciples. Your gracious giving helps us fulfill our Mission. Thank you so much.

Kevin E Pyle, Parish Administrator

WHERE YOUR HEART IS

Cheerful Givers

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

Shorty is a steady, no-frills kind of guy. He'd worked the same job for most of his life. Slowly, over the years, he had built up a comfortable financial cushion on which to retire. Not a lot of extras, but enough. Those who knew him well knew he was a kind person. Some of the little kids were scared of him. He didn't smile much, but you could count on him. Steady. Some might say faithful.

Shorty was practical, too. He could fix almost anything. It was his diligence that kept the boiler in the church basement limping along two years longer than it ever should have lasted.

When the boiler finally gave up its last rumble, Shorty knew enough to throw in the towel. The call went out. Donations were needed for the new furnace. It was a small congregation. Some joked about breaking up the furniture for kindling.

The check arrived in the mail in an unmarked envelope. It was a generous gift. Enough for an entire furnace. There were conditions. No one was to know. No plaque or announcement. Just the hum of heat warming those who came to worship.

Shorty's gift to his church came from the heart. Not many of us could make the kind of financial gift Shorty made, but if we keep our eyes and ears and heart open, opportunities to give and to serve will be numerous.

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FINANCIAL STANDINGS

DECEMBER 2016

GOAL	\$91,515
INCOME	\$104,873
EXPENSES	\$24,727

DECEMBER 2017

GOAL	\$99,813
INCOME	\$97,312
EXPENSES	\$72,656



Peace Lutheran Church

3530 Dayton-Xenia Road

Beavercreek, Ohio 45432

www.peacebeavercreek.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

5:15 p.m.

Praise Service

SUNDAY

8:15 a.m.

Heritage Service

9:30 a.m.

Faith Formation Education
Hour

10:45 a.m.

Celebration Service

Church Office:	937-426-1441
Website:	www.peacebeavercreek.org
Email:	churchsecretary@peacebeavercreek.org
Our Ministers:	Every Member
Senior Pastor:	Stephen Kimm
Associate Pastor:	Carey Hovland
Youth Ministry Leader	Deacon Dan Jacob
Parish Administrator	Kevin Pyle
Director of Music	Linda Hill Lally
Administrative Assistant:	Christa Clelan
Custodian:	Brad Saunders
Nursery:	Melissa Ellis and Lindsay Hoskins
Wedding Coordinator:	Robin Jones