

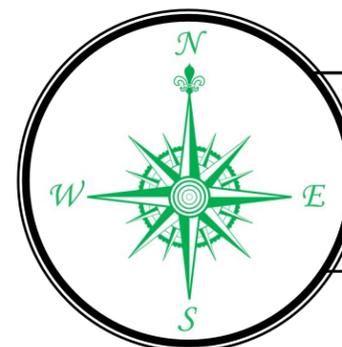


Peace Lutheran Church

3530 Dayton-Xenia Road
Beavercreek, Ohio 45432

www.peacebeavercreek.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The Compass of Peace

Peace Lutheran Church, Aug 2018

FROM PASTOR CAREY

This past week, I spent each morning with 74 rafters and 50 volunteers at our Rolling River Rampage Vacation Bible School. It has been an amazing week of discovering God's Word through crafts, games, science, snacks, storytelling, and music.

Our theme verse for the week was "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you!" Isaiah 43:2 as where we "experienced a ride of a life time with God." While out on the river we found new and exciting ways to encounter God's Word.

On **Monday** we found ADVENTURE on the river as we learned about Jesus Calling the disciples to something new. (Matthew 4:18-25)

On **Tuesday** we found ACCEPTANCE on the river as we saw Jesus accepting both Mary and Martha where were very different from each other. (Luke 10:38-42)

On **Wednesday** we found JOY on the river as we saw Jesus walking with Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

On **Thursday** we found REST on the river as we learned that Jesus continue to welcome us in the Sharing of a Special Meal. (Luke 22:14-20)

On **Friday** we found PEACE on the river as we heard Jesus Making a Promise that he will be with us always. (Matthew 28:16-20)

As we experienced a ride of a life time with God, we learned that God is always with us and that God is visible as we help others in our community. During the week, we collected school supplies, food, hygiene items and monetary donations to help other in our community see God's presence. We raised \$ 336.48 and collected a tent full of food, a raft full of school supplies, and an inner tubes full of hygiene products.

It was an amazing week as we continue to see that God is always with us on the waters of life. I would encourage each of you to ask one of our children about VBS and let them tell you of all the amazing things they learned, experienced and discovered this week! Also don't forget to check out all of the VBS Photo's @ www.peacebeavercreek.org – Look under the Gallery Tab for VBS Rolling River Rampage 2018

I would also like to say thank you to everyone who volunteered this week; all of our teachers, shepherds, AV technicians, photographers, floater, singers, youth helpers, our crossing guard and all those who help behind the scene with decorating, packing t-shirts and CD's. VBS would not be possible without all of your dedication and hard work. Thank you so much. I can't wait for next summer's VBS! Pastor Carey

FROM LINDA LALLY CALLING ALL MUSICIANS

The Music Department is gearing up to begin rehearsals in August and September. Now is the perfect time to dust off that instrument you have sitting in a closet, or start singing in the shower to warm up your voice for choir! Bells, winds, and choir all meet weekly. If you are interested, please talk to Linda Hill Lally, our Director of Music. The choir and the bells meet in the music room located on the lower level. The instrumental ensemble meets in the choir loft in the sanctuary.

Chancel Choir: first rehearsal Thursday, August 23 6:30-7:30PM

Peace Ringers: first rehearsal Thursday, August 23 7:30-8:30PM

Winds of Peace: first rehearsal Saturday, September 8 8:30-9:30AM

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

5:15 p.m.

Praise Service

SUNDAY

8:15 a.m.

Heritage Service

9:45 a.m.

Celebration Service

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|---------------------------|--|
| 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 |

FROM LINDA LALLY

Opportunity to Serve

Are you interested in serving in worship but would prefer to serve behind the scenes? Then we have a place for you. Our A/V team is looking for some new volunteers to help run the sound board and the Power Point slides during worship. The commitment is one service a month. All training is provided. This is an excellent opportunity for youth and parents to serve together. Please contact Linda Hill Lally, our Director of Music, if you are interested in sharing your gifts in worship.

FROM PASTOR CAREY

Jeremiah, Nicholas and I had a wonderful time in Tanzania. We spend much of our time at home with their grandmother, aunt, and cousins playing and relaxing as well as cleaning, doing laundry, gathering sticks (don't tell the boys but they were for firewood), washing dishes, planting corn (again don't tell the boys that was work because they thought hoeing and digging was just fun), and going to church. It was three weeks again immersed in the typical village culture of Tanzania.

The great thing about returning to a place after several years away is that you return with a different perspective and see life, culture, and faith with new eyes. One thing that just struck me over and over again was how relevant the church was to the community and just how much that connectedness become the Kingdom of God here on earth. The churches in Marangu were begun in 1893 (Ashira Lutheran Parish with several daughter churches eventually becoming parishes themselves – including Masia-Mshiri where our family are members) and quickly became and remain the center of the community because they have always been on the cutting edge of helping villagers experience abundant life. Each church is broken down into neighborhood groups which gather once a week at one of their homes in order to read scripture, sing hymns, talk about the scripture, share what is going on in their lives, and pray with each other. They are a spiritual support group for one another. There are also women's groups which provides a supportive community for women of the church. They come together to pray, share parenting, health, and small business information which is distributed from the Diocese Center for Women.

The church has taken a very active role through their "diakonia" (Greek word which means service among others) group which cares for the poor, widows and orphans in the community through support groups, food distribution, providing school supplies and uniforms, and even paying school fees for children in secondary school. This is all done through donation from church members.

The church began the first hospital in the area in 1907 which continues to function as a church run hospital. It is an 80 bed hospital with outpatient clinics including, Dr's offices, X-Ray services, Lab Services, Dental clinic, HIV/AIDS and Counseling Clinic, Well Child Clinic for check ups and vaccinations, Palliative Care Clinic. They also have 5 satellite clinics in smaller more distant villages. The hospital currently serves around 300,000 people from Marangu and the surrounding areas including the neighboring areas of Kenya.

The church through volunteers participates in the Palliative Care Program which provides dignity to the dying, bereavement services, and extensive follow up care for families in poverty who have been impacted by the death of their loved one. Palliative Care provides medical assistance through education, medication, and additional medical supplies needed to provide supplies to care for the terminally ill at home. They also provide bereavement support to families as well as extended support for those already living in poverty and for those thrust into poverty due to the death of the families financial provider. Palliative care works to improve living conditions for widows and child by building homes in conjunction with local church volunteers, providing sustainable income sources by distributing livestock, and provide life sustaining food for orphan's birth – 12 years old.

The church supports and welcomes Floresta, a Christian non-profit organization, that works to reverse deforestation and alleviate poverty in the world by transforming the lives of the rural poor. They help communities tackle issues of food security, environmental degradation, and economic development as they educate villagers on new farming innovations and allow villages to participate in their community bank program (VICOBA). The church welcomes and hosts VICOBA which is a village community bank that provides micro-finance loans and education for sustainable and energy efficient homes (biogas facilities, solar power, energy saving stoves).

The church welcomes and host SACCO a Savings and Credit Co-operative much like a credit union in that it is member own institution. The then provides micro-financing loans to members at a reasonable rate of interest. This savings and credit co-operative is backed by Uchumi Commercial Bank which is run by the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania.

The church in Tanzania has taken a very active role in providing life enriching and sustainable living opportunities for their members and residents of whole the community. Their mission is to allow others to have abundant life, so that, all might come to believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior. As Isaiah states "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. (Isaiah 58:6-9) How are we as Peace Lutheran Church living out this vision in Isaiah? How are we following Jesus own example of bring life, abundant grace-filled lives to those around us? Are we, the church, relevant to the residents of Beavercreek and the surrounding communities? Are we doing God's work with our hands, so that we might proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed? We pray in the Lord's Prayer "your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven". Are we a part of what that Kingdom looks like here on earth as it does in heaven? Are you a kingdom person living out God's mission to serve all people following the example of Jesus and strive for justice and peace in all the earth?"

Pastor Carey

FROM PASTOR STEVE LONG RANGE PLANNING

Once again our Long range planning process is based on 1) listening to God 2) listening to our community 3) listening to ourselves. This is the process many ELCA churches are using and was recommended by the synod. Thanks to the many of you that participated in our long range planning process listening. The Long Range Planning team has been working very hard this summer to take what we have heard and develop major themes from our listening to the congregation. WE are hoping to set out several main themes from the hearings which will be used to compare them to the themes from the community.

We invite you to help us with the next step in the process. The next step is to have you help us prioritize the themes we have extracted from the congregational listening's. On Saturday 25 August 9-11 and on Sunday afternoon, 9 September 1-3 we will have two workshop events for congregational members to help us set the direction of the 5 year plan. Please notice we are asking you to only come to one of these events. We have chosen two dates to help with ease of your schedule. The same information will be shared and worked on at each session. Please plan to join us for one of these important events.

On behalf of the Long Range Planning team

Pastor Steve

WHERE YOUR HEART IS

The door is locked when you come. You have to ring the bell, tell who you are, stand so they can see your face, and wait for the buzzer to sound before you can enter Anne Marie's house. It's more than a little foreboding. Anne Marie's is a shelter for battered women. Most of us hear about such things and shake our heads sympathetically.

The shelter will be full in a couple of hours. The only empty room is just now being prepared for two women coming in later tonight. The average stay is 16 days. In that time, the women must try to think, shake off the fear, and make decisions for themselves and often their children. Those who work with the women know how to ask the important questions. Will you feel safe? Who can you call for support? What are your best options? These are questions the women must answer for themselves. They should not have to answer them alone. We tour the facility. The pantry is stocked mainly by donations. Meals are prepared with help from the residents. Rooms have been "adopted" by local service groups and churches who furnish them down to the sheets. A retired carpenter sees to the upkeep of the building. The garage acts as a warehouse for overflow items the families may need if they decide not to go back. Dishes, diapers, dust pans. Mostly donated.

There would be no shelter without the donations. Dollars and resources, all freely given by people who give hospitality to others they will never know. Just one example, one opportunity in a world of opportunities. The heart knows where to go, and it has been freed to go there. What are you waiting for?

FINANCIAL STANDINGS

June 2017

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|-----------------|-----------------|
| GOAL | \$67,364 |
| INCOME | \$53,625 |
| EXPENSES | \$65,946 |

June 2018

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|-----------------|-----------------|
| GOAL | \$63,336 |
| INCOME | \$51,201 |
| EXPENSES | \$77,874 |