

# THE PEACE LUTHERAN

VOLUME 48, ISSUE NO. 7

**AUGUST 2023** 

# **SUNDAY SCHOOL ORIENTATION DAY**

August 20, 2023 9:15-10:15AM Parents and Children



This is an opportunity to meet your child's new teacher, visit with other parents, and learn about our new year in Sunday School. We're looking

forward to a wonderful year with your children, and we hope to see you there. To preregister for the new Sunday School year, please scan the QR code below. Paper registration forms are available in the Sunday School office.



Are you interested in teaching or helping with Sunday School? Please contact Jacque McElroy at sundayschool@peacelutheranstl.org, or 314-496-7995, and we will find the perfect position for you.

# ADULT BIBLE CLASS II BEGINS IN SEPTEMBER

Join us in September as Adult Bible Class II resumes covering a workshop called "Witnessing to De-Churched Adult Children." The class, led by Pastor Brown and Pastor Smith, will start on Sunday, September 17, in the Kitchen Meeting Room, during Sunday morning Bible Class hour. Watch the bulletin for more details.



# HOLY COMMUNION SCHEDULE

Holy Communion is offered on the first, third and fifth Sundays of each month.

**REV. Dr. Jon Furgeson, Senior Pastor** 314-601-1039 pastor.furgeson@peacelutheranstl.org

# PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES

Packets are available on the Commons counter which include a copy of Peace's Constitution (which is NOT changing), our current by-laws, and the proposed by-laws. Please take a copy for review. Town Hall Q & A meetings will be held on August 13 and 27, immediately following the 10:30AM service to receive feedback from congregants. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of these proposed changes, and we look forward to seeing you at one of the meetings.

## **AUGUST SCRIPTURE READINGS**

<u>August 6</u>: Isaiah 55:1-5; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

<u>August 13</u>: Job 38:4-18; Romans 10:5-17; Matthew 14:22-33

<u>August 20</u>: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15,

28-32; Matthew 15:21-28

<u>August 27</u>: Isaiah 51:1-6; Romans 11:33—12:8; Matthew 16:13-20

# JR. CONFIRMATION CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 6

Classes for Junior Confirmation will begin Wednesday, September 6, 4:00-5:15PM, for students in 6th-8th grades.

The 6th grade class will be taught by Christina Stackle, 7th grade by Pastor Brown, and 8th grade by Pastor Furgeson. Each grade level will be focusing on different parts of the Small Catechism.

Parents and students in 6th and 7th grade, please mark your calendars for Catechism Sunday, August 27, at the 10:30AM Service, as students will be presented their Small Catechisms during the service.

A new acolyte schedule and other important information for students will be emailed in August.

REV. ROBERT BROWN, ASSOCIATE PASTOR

618-580-8817

pastor.brown@peacelutheranstl.org

# **SOCIAL MINISTRY REQUEST**

As everyone is aware, the rapid rise in inflation has affected the wallets of all of us, but none more than the poor.

The Peace Social Ministry Team has had more requests for financial help this year than we received in the previous three years combined. We have watched rents climb as much as \$150 per month more than last year, utilities are higher and grocery prices have gotten crazy. These basic needs are hammering the poor among us, and with your help, Social Ministry has been able to keep many people from financial ruin, eviction or hunger. This need shows no sign of ending, and we need your help more than ever. If you would consider Social Ministry when making donations to various charities, it would be appreciated. One hundred percent of your donation goes towards helping others, a statement few charities can make. For more information please contact Greg Wirtel at 314-550 -9502.

# **THANK YOU PEACE FAMILY**

I want to thank my Peace family and the Evangelism team for all your cards, emails, phone calls and prayers while I was mending from hip replacement surgery! Thank you to Pastor Brown for his visit in the hospital and giving me communion and also to Pastor & Alice Kastens for the delicious, homemade sweet breads. I'm back to church and look forward to seeing everyone. I have missed being there. Most of all I want to thank our Heavenly Father for healing me so quickly.

Donna Werner

# **SUNDAY SERVICE ON KFUO**



Peace's Sunday service is rebroadcast on KFUO AM 850 every Saturday, from 4:00-5:00PM. Please share this information with your neighbors, friends, family, and especially our homebound members.





# FELLOWSHIP TIME - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to help with the coffee and donut set-up on Saturday evening and clean-up on Sunday morning. For more information, please contact Heather Carlson at 314-677-7241 or email carlson.heather2010@yahoo.com.

## **ALTAR FLOWER ORDERS**



Altar Flower orders are received through the Church Office. Arrangements are \$25 each. Please call the church office with your requests at least two weeks in advance. Thank you.

## QUILTERS CORNER



Thank you to everyone who volunteered to do some embroidery work for us! We were slightly unprepared for the number of volunteers and thank you for your patience as we put projects together for you. If you are looking for a project, we

have new embroidery blocks! Call Bonna Mayer at 314-892-8451. For more information on Quilters, please contact Cheryl Turley at 314-223-0744.

A bed without a quilt is like a sky without stars!



## STAMPS FOR MISSIONS



Ladies Guild extends a great big thank you to our church family for saving cancelled stamps. Our Missouri LWML District has earned \$17,600 for Mission Grant

Projects. All stamps are welcome except the metered stamps and stamps from advertising bulk mail. Stamps may be placed in the container on the Commons counter.

-Peace Ladies Guild

# 2023 - 2024 Men's Morning Bible Study

The Men's Morning Bible Study meets on Thursday mornings, at 6:00AM in Sanctuary Hall, except for holiday adjustments. A prepared text will be studied, however, other topics will also be presented. The tentative leaders and dates for the sessions are:

#### 2023

September 7 Rick Goodman September 21 Rick Goodman October 5 **Bob Uthoff** 

October 19 Lew Rosenbaum November 2 Dave Carlson November 16 Mark Dowell November 30 Grea Wirtel December 14 Dan Dukesherer

#### 2024

January 4 Lew Rosenbaum January 18 Ken Bickel February 1 Ken Bickel February 15 John Wiesehan February 29 Dan Dukesherer

March 14 **Bob Uthoff** April 4 Mark Dowell April 18 John Wiesehan

# **SEWING MACHINE DONATIONS - THANK YOU**



Thank you to all who donated sewing machines for the Sewing Machine Project. Caring and generous Peace members donated

a total of 29 machines.

Most of the machines are repairable with many requiring very little service to be ready to ship. About 25 will be able to be given to impoverished women in developing countries who would never be able to afford a sewing machine. They can then repair and make clothes for their families or start a small seamstress business. What a blessing.

# **OFFICIAL ACTS**

#### **BAPTISMS**

June 3, 2023 - Landon Michael Holmes June 11, 2023 - Walker James Justus June 18, 2023 - Paiae Aurelia Wiesehan July 16, 2023 - Samantha Grace Kardell

#### **WEDDINGS**

June 10, 2023 - Kaitlyn Louise Everding and Kevin Raymond Yaeger June 17, 2023 - Ashlen Marie Knabach and Tyler James Rainey

#### **ADULT CONFIRMATIONS**

July 9, 2023 - Jason Cervera July 9, 2023 - Allie Cervera July 9, 2023 - Terree Rowbottom July 9, 2023 - Michael Viviano

#### **FUNERALS**

June 2, 2023 - Perry Parcel, 68 June 15, 2023 - Ronald Slover, 83 June 24, 2023 - Judi Briesacher, 84 July 8, 2023 - Suzanne Lang, 68 July 11, 2023 - Doris Hastings, 90 July 17, 2023 - Joy Meuser, 87 July 21, 2023 - Marilyn Kaetzel, 77

# **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT THANK YOU**

Property Management thanks everyone volunteered their time and efforts during the last six months to help renovate the building after the water leak on Christmas Day, 2022. We still have some work to do, but the gym is now finished as scheduled. It has been a long journey, but a fruitful one.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23

With our appreciation and God's Blessings,

The Property Management Team

# THE PEACE LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER

Our newsletter is published monthly, except the month of July, by the church office. It is mailed at no cost to our members, friends and also available on our website.

# St. Trinity CEMETERY



Mark McDaniel Superintendent

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> 2160 Lemay Ferry Road (Lemay Ferry at Reavis Barracks) St. Louis, MO 63125 314-892-3662

www.sttrinitycemetery.com Monday – Friday 7:30 – 4:00 Saturday by Appointment Only

# CLEAN-UP CREW TO THE RESCUE!

The storm that passed through the St. Louis area on the evening of July 12, left significant damage at St. Trinity Cemetery. Trees, large limbs, sticks and leaves were strewn across the grounds. The roads were impassable, and electricity was also out due to a power pole downed by a tree. We had many volunteers pitch in over the subsequent days to help clear the debris and open the roads. There were too many to name individually, but you know who you are! We are forever grateful that so many in our congregation are willing to drop everything on a moment's notice and help when help is needed.

THANK YOU from the St. Trinity Cemetery Board for the many hands that pitched in to lighten the load!!







If you should find yourself in need of burial services, or wish to do advance planning, please feel free to contact Mark McDaniel, the Superintendent, at 314-892-3662. You can also reach out via email at info@sttrinitycemetery.com or reference information on the website listed below.

Follow us on Facebook at St Trinity Cemetery or visit our website at www.sttrinitycemetery.com.

# BAPTISM CLASS

9:15 - 10:15AM Sunday, September 17 Commons Conference Room

Christina Stackle will lead the class and will cover the basic teachings and logistics of baptisms at Peace. To register, please visit our website at www.peacelutheranstl.org. For more information please call the Church Office at 314-892-5610.

If you cannot attend this class, but desire to have your child baptized prior to September 17, please meet privately with Pastor before the baptism. Future class date: November 12.

"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself." Acts 2:38-39

## **USHERS NEEDED**



We are still looking for men who are willing to serve on an usher team. This is one of the easiest ways to serve our congregation. Typical service

is only one Saturday/Sunday per month, with the exception of months with special services, (e.g., Lent, Advent, Christmas, etc.) If interested, or for more information, please contact Barry Hammon at barry.hammon@wwt.com or 314-703-9960.



# **VOTERS' ASSEMBLY**



Please join us for our upcoming Voters' Assembly, Monday, September 11, 7:00PM, in **Sanctuary Hall.** 

We will be voting on the adoption of the proposed by-laws at that meeting. Your participation and involvement are very important. If the proposed by-laws are approved, we will then vote on a seven-member slate of Church Council participants. If you would like to serve on the Church Council, please complete

the application below and return it to the church office by August 6. Your application will be reviewed by the nominating committee, who will reach out to you with any questions.

# PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH CHURCH COUNCIL CANDIDATE APPLICATION

Name
Address
Occupation
EDUCATION
Other Activities
PLC Involvement
Why would you like to serve on the PLC Church Council?

Please return this form to the church office by Sunday, August 6

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## SURVIVING SPOUSES BREAKFAST

Join us on Thursday, August 10, at 9:00AM at the Denny's on South Lindbergh. Our group meets on the second Thursday of each month. Watch the bulletin for details.

## Adult Co-Ed Volleyball at Peace

Co-Ed volleyball resumes play this fall on Tuesday evenings beginning October 10, from 6:00-8:00PM. Co-Ed volleyball is open to anyone 18 years and older. For more information please contact Cameron Stinnett at 314-413-3412 or camstinn16@gmail.com.

# PICKLEBALL OPEN PLAY AT PEACE

Adult, co-ed Pickleball has resumed on Sunday evenings, 6:00-8:00PM in the gymnasium. The group is open to all levels of experience, ages 17 and older, with equipment and training provided. For more information please contact Jack Jeffcott at liporccarman@amail.com, or 314-856-5379.

# MENS CLUB

Join us for our upcoming meetings on Tuesday, July 25 and Tuesday, August 22, from 6:00-9:00PM. Our evening begins with a meal and fellowship, followed by our regular meeting. Men's Club is open to all men of Peace, 21 and up!

# MARY MARTHA BIBLE CLASS

Mary Martha Bible Class will resume study on Thursday, September 7, 9:00-10:30AM, Sanctuary Hall. See the September newsletter for more information. We hope you will join us.

# LWML LADIES GUILD

LWML Ladies Guild will resume meeting on Thursday, September 21, at 10:45AM in Sanctuary Hall. Please bring a side dish, dessert, or main entrée for another great potluck lunch together! We will apply diaper pins to our flannel diapers for Orphan Grain Train.

# PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Calling all handy men and women! Property Management is looking for volunteers to help with landscaping, as well as general maintenance inside the church. For more information, please contact Jack Via at 314-651-5777.

#### LADIES CLUB

Ladies Club will gather together on Tuesday, August 15, at 7:00PM. Please watch your email and the bulletin for details. The Ladies Club is a social organization and open to female members of Peace 18 and older. You may join the organization at any time.

# PLASTIC MAT MAKING

Our mat-making group meets from 9:00AM to noon on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. We crochet plastic grocery bags into sleeping mats for the homeless. We would love to have more helpers! If you don't crochet, you can help fold, cut or loop the plastic bags. Anyone can handle these tasks, men, women, and children. Oh, and we also have a lot of fun while we work. If you're not available on Tuesday's, we can show you how to work from home. Please contact Anita Thomas at 314-200-6753 for questions or more information.

# MARRIED COUPLES CLUB



Married Couples Club is sponsoring a Sock Hop "Fun" Raiser on Saturday, August 26, 6:00-10:00PM in the gymnasium. Cost is \$10.00 per person. Anyone 21 and over is invited to enjoy a night of fun, fellowship, music, and dancing. Please bring your own

food and drink. Tickets will be available at the Commons counter beginning August 5. All proceeds from this event will benefit church related missions here at Peace.

# PEACE COMMUNICATION SIGN-UP



STAY If you would like to receive text and/or (ONNECTED) email notifications when a beloved church member dies, or for emergency

situations such as church event cancellations due to inclement weather, please contact the church office to sign up. You may choose email and/or text.

# **ADOPT AN ISLAND AT PEACE**



Would you like to help keep the grounds of Peace Lutheran Church looking beautiful? Please consider "adopting" one of the islands on our parking lot. For more

information or to reserve your island, please contact Jack Via at 314-651-5777.

# LIFE MINISTRY - PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN



With August upon us, we will be seeing groups of parents with school-age children standing at street corners waiting for school buses. Years ago, parents let their children wait for school buses unattended. Why are parents standing watch each morning? They are wisely protecting their children from predators. Unfortunately, today our children need additional protection once they enter the classroom. Public schools are teaching many concepts contrary to a Biblical worldview and many parochial schools often use the same textbooks and curriculum. Colleges are even more radical in their opposition to Christianity. What ideas are we talking about?

- There is no God and everything evolved randomly.
- There is no objective truth and no right or wrong.
- ◆ There are multiple genders that are based on one's feelings rather than biological males and females.
- Children should be able to transition to the opposite sex if they so desire. Parents should have no rights in preventing this from happening. Thankfully Missouri laws now prevent this before eighteen years of age.
- Marriage is not limited to one man, one woman for life. It can be same-sex couples. Wait for this
  to be expanded in multiple ways.
- Sex does not need to be confined to a marriage relationship. If an unwanted pregnancy arises, that can easily be solved through abortion.
- White people are inherently racist, and the United States is inherently flawed because European Christians founded this nation.
- There should be "equity" in grading. No failures allowed, but no recognition of excellence either.

What can be done? Make sure your children feel comfortable talking to you about what's happening in their lives. Let them know that they can talk to you about <u>anything</u> and listen to them. Get familiar with the textbooks and library books that are being used. When you see ideas contrary to Christian beliefs, challenge the wisdom of flouting God's laws and encourage critical thinking skills. If you do not have children in school, you still need to be praying for our young people and keeping informed about what's happening.

Our schools are a primary battleground in spiritual warfare and we in the church need to be doing all that we can to protect our young people. 1 Corinthians 16:16 says: "Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong." We are all parents at the street corners watching over our children.

Peace Life Ministry Team "Through the love of Jesus Christ the Life Ministry Team exists to equip Peace Lutheran Church to sanctify life at all stages"

# **HIGH SCHOOL SERVANT EVENT**



The week of July 10-14, we had 21 high school youth and five adult leaders participate in a week of service at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Saint Louis. The group had an amazing week being the hands of Jesus to the children of Bethlehem, CCLS Academy, and the community. Some projects they worked on consisted of weeding, weed whacking, and shoveling debris to clear the brick patios and fences to paint 4-square, hopscotch, and a bullseye game for the children to play. They also constructed a gaga pit, cleaned and organized classrooms and the library, created a teacher lounge, installed new lockers, painted a mural in the cafeteria, and brought joy to the summer camp children by playing soccer and teaching them to play gaga ball. Our team of youth

and adults are very thankful for the continued generous support of our congregation, as well as the Peace Men's Club which helped fund the purchasing of supplies to accomplish these projects.



Lutheran South was named a Top Workplace for the fourth year in a row by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. The newspaper surveys employees throughout the region, and LuSo was the only private high school to make the list! The dedication of our teachers and staff is what sets us apart from other schools. We are grateful for the difference they are making in our students' lives.

LuSo OnStage was recognized at the St. Louis High School Musical Theatre Awards for the cast and crew's outstanding

performance of "Back to the 80's!" The awards show, a high school version of the Tony Awards, is a collaboration between The Fabulous Fox, The Muny, and The Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation. Out of 34 high schools that participated in the year-long review process, LuSo OnStage won a \$2,500 Production Enhancement Award, which recognizes and invests in programs on the rise.



Lutheran South's English teacher, theology instructor, curriculum director, and statequalifying mock trial coach, Pastor Joseph Cox, was named a Christian Teacher of the Year by the Herzog Foundation. This award is presented to 12 educators across the country as part of the Herzog Foundation's Excellence in Christian Education award series. Each awardee receives a free trip to Washington, D.C. for the Teacher of the Year Awards Gala in September at the Museum of the Bible.

Our Dominican Republic mission team, including Peace member, and LuSo Senior, Cecilia Palma, made it back home with new friends and new experiences that they will remember forever. They painted the Seminary, performed a skit about Joseph's coat, read books in Spanish to school children, and played some games with young adults with special needs. They had an amazing time and learned so much about themselves and another culture. "While we're blessed to be a blessing, we are all reminded that true joy does not come from material wealth," said Jonathan Butterfield, our Head of School who helped chaperone the trip. "The people of the Dominican Republic were so welcoming and joyful. We are so proud of the work our church body is doing in this part of the world!"





CONGRATULATIONS Jack Jennings and John Haines attended Missouri Boys State this summer, and Bella Bracken and Maddie Holland were selected for Girls State. Male and female students from across Missouri apply, and the best and brightest are chosen to attend a week-long session on the campus of Lindenwood University, where they learn the fundamentals of government and OYS & GIRLS STATE democracy through hands-on experience.

Sophomore Kallista Nauyen attended the Missouri Scholars Academy summer. Founded in 1985, the Missouri Scholars Academy is a three-week residential program for 330 of Missouri's academically aifted students who are ready to begin their junior year of high school. The Academy is held each June on the campus of the in University of Missouri and administered by the University of Missouri Honors College.





The 2023 Lancer football schedule is here! Be sure to catch a game this fall.

Save the Date! The Lancers are back on the links on Monday, October 9, to cap off our Homecoming weekend. Make plans to join us on at noon at Missouri Bluffs. Stay tuned for details.





Summer has brought on big and important changes at Green Park. Inside, we're rearranging classrooms and offices to accommodate the growing enrollment and improve the arrangements for teachers and staff. With the help of several staff members, we have cleaned

each individual classroom from top to bottom, new coats of paint are covering the gym, hallways, and doors, gym windows have been replaced, additional paging speakers have been installed, and locker rooms and storage spaces have been revamped. Stay tuned as we put the finishing touches inside the building.

Outside, our new playground has been installed and is ready for students to enjoy. Our ribbon cutting ceremony and staff meet and greet takes place on Wednesday July 26, from 5:00-7:00PM, with the blessing by Pastor Brown at 5:30PM. Please join us for this momentous occasion and to celebrate with us!

We welcome the following new staff members to our Green Park family. Teacher Aide JK3 - Mrs. Heather McDermott, Second 1st Grade Teacher - Mrs. Jennifer Dixon, Second 2nd Grade Teacher - Miss Nicole Berry, 3rd Grade Teacher, and Peace member - Mrs. Danielle Madsen, Additional Middle School Teacher - Mrs. Christy White, LFCS School Counselor - Ms. Kelly Crimson and LASE Teacher - Ms. Kelly Templeton

## GREEN PARK JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We're looking for a Choir/Music Director. This is a part time position and qualifications include the ability to play an instrument (preferably piano/guitar), a willingness to work with children in 2nd-8th grade with individualized needs, a desire to share Christ with students, and a loving and caring personality. Interested candidates should email a cover letter and resume to Mrs. Lisa Waltenberger, Principal, at lisa.waltenberger@greenparklutheranschool.org.

We're also looking for Child Care Staff for our After Care program. Candidates must have availability Monday-Friday afternoons from 3:00-6:00PM. Weekly schedule subject to change. Must have patience and the ability to work with children grades JK3-8th. Employment is subject to a background check. Interested candidates should contact: April Baese, Before/After Care Director, at 314-835-7207 or april.baese@greenparklutheranschool.org.

# GOLF FOR EDUCATION REGISTER NOW!

Registration is open for our 9th Annual Golf Fore Education at Acorn Golf Links in Waterloo, Illinois. To register, please visit our website. Company and private sponsorships are available. For more information, please contact Laura Reis at ura.reis@greenparklutheranschool.org.

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# ANNUAL SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



# JEGREEN DARK LUTHERAN SCHOOL

# **GOLF SCRAMBLE**

FOURSOME	<b>②</b>	<b>②</b>
RECOGNITION ON SPONSOR SHEET	<b>Ø</b>	<b>②</b>
HOLE SIGNAGE	<b>②</b>	<b>②</b>
VINYL SIGNAGE AT CLUBHOUSE	<b>②</b>	

# TRIVIA NIGHT

FULL TABLE (10)	<b>②</b>	•
RECOGNITION FOR 1 ROUND OF TRIVIA	<b>②</b>	<b>②</b>
VINYL SIGNAGE AT EVENT	<b>②</b>	

# AUCTION

VIP ADMISSION (1 UP FRONT PARKING SPOT, TICKETS TO EVENT & PRIME SEATING)	<b>10</b> (FULL TABLE)	8
LOGO & NAME ON SCREEN THROUGHOUT EVENT	<b>②</b>	<b>②</b>
AD IN AUCTION CATALOG	FULL PAGE	HALF PAGE
VINYL SIGNAGE AT EVENT	<b>Ø</b>	
SPONSOR RECOGNITION FROM PODIUM	<b>9</b>	

# WHY ANNUAL SPONSORSHIP?

Your annual contribution makes an immense difference to our school, students, faculty and staff. Today, raising funds outside of yearly tuition is *CRITICAL* to the operation of Green Park. In order to keep tuition costs competitive we must have annual events to supplement the cost difference we have for each student. Thank you for your consideration of these opportunities!

# FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO DISCUSS CONTACT:

**Laura Reis, Development Director** laura.reis@greenparklutheranschool.org or (314) 544-4248

## **EVANGELISM MINISTRY**



In his book Faith that Engages the Culture, Rev. Dr. Alfonso Espinosa helps Christians talk to others about Jesus. Here is how one person described her struggle with talking to others about Christ.

"I think people just don't know what to say. We are taught lots of great theological doctrine and all these wonderful concepts about grace and faith and Baptism, but often we aren't taught how to simply explain all of these big concepts to someone who has zero background in Christianity. Where do you begin the conversation?"

Others told Dr. Espinosa they didn't speak up because of fear of ruffling feathers, looking stupid, not knowing the answer to a question, or embarrassing themselves. One person admitted it was just easier to be complacent and not worry about it.

Can you relate to those comments? If so, please consider joining us for one of our evangelism workshops where you can learn how to confidently speak about Jesus with the people God has placed in your life. Our next workshop is:

**WITNESSING TO DE-CHURCHED ADULT CHILDREN WORKSHOP:** Pastor Brown will conduct a 5–10 week workshop during Adult Bible Study called: "Witnessing to De-Churched Adult Children," Sunday morning, from 9:15-10:15AM beginning on September 17, in the Kitchen Meeting Room. Please watch the bulletin for more information.

**CELEBRATE SUMMER WAS A BLAST!** Thank you to all who helped make this event a success! This continues to be a great outreach gift to our community. Through it we can lay the foundations for building more relationships with our surrounding neighbors. A special thank you to Burnell and musicians for the beautiful music. You are God's blessing to us and others.

**2023 VBS** was a huge success. Six families who registered as "no church home" received information from the Evangelism Ministry about Peace, Pre-school, Sunday School, and Green Park Lutheran School. They were encouraged to make Peace their church home.

For help in how to engage the culture's questions about Christianity, we suggest the following book recommendations. Objections Overruled and Objections Overruled II, Answering Arguments Against Christianity, copyright 2022, published by Issues, Etc.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes." Romans 1:16



## PEACE EARLY CHILDHOOD

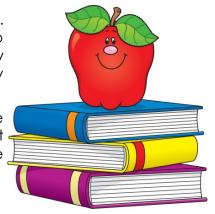
# Preschool Plus and Half Day Preschool

Helping the Church Grow by helping God's Children Grow

A fun-filled summer was enjoyed by the Early Childhood students. We wish those going onto elementary school this month the very best.

We begin preparations this month for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year. The Preschool Plus Program is offered Monday through Friday from 6:00AM to 6:00PM. This program is for children beginning at age of six weeks. Half-Day Preschool for children beginning at the age of three is available Monday through Friday from 8:45 to 11:45AM.

To learn more about our programs, or to schedule a tour, please contact Sue Velten at 314-892-8844 or email: earlychildhood@peacelutheranstl.org. Visit our webpage at peacelutheranstl.org, and follow us on Facebook at Peace Early Childhood.



# THRIVENT—CLEARING UP THE POLICY OF A FINANCIAL COMPANY



"Pastor, what is going on with Thrivent?" is a question I was asked several times in June. It turned out that the company had posted (in line with every other financial company in June) their logo on social media with a spectrum of colors in it to observe "Pride Month." Since the Bible is pretty clear on God's issues with sexual

deviancy, it is striking that a Lutheran financial company could even consider such a move. Further investigation showed that the Choice dollars could be given to charities which work to support persons in sexually deviant lifestyles. What happened? It turns out that much has happened with the company, and the result is worth consideration.

In 1902, the Aid Association for Lutherans was born from 500 founders each contributing \$5 to mutually support each other. In 1917, Lutheran Brotherhood was founded. Both had similar goals regarding investment and insurance catering to the Lutheran church bodies in the United States. Both companies became strong fiduciary businesses in their own right, but merged into Thrivent Financial for Lutherans in 2002. In 2013, Thrivent members voted to expand to a pan-Christian financial service organization, and the "for Lutherans" was dropped.

Even if the "Lutheran" portion was kept, we know that there is a large contingent of congregations in America which bear the name Lutheran but, in their official teachings, are neither Lutheran nor, strictly speaking, Christian. The ELCA churches now produce things like "The Sparkle Creed" and condone all of the sexual deviancy around us. Since Thrivent was pan-Lutheran and is now pan-Christian, its general policy is that whoever self-identifies as Christian can acquire their services and support. At this time, when so many American church bodies have become heretical, it is easy to see how a financial services company like Thrivent would also get caught up in supporting non-biblical issues. Talking with one of the local representatives of the company revealed that the social media change in June had not been communicated to anyone at the representative level and, since many are Confessional Lutherans, they were likewise taken aback by the incident.

What now? This calls for consideration of conscience. On the one hand, Thrivent is still one of the most benevolent financial companies in existence. It is still, on some level, Christian based, as are most of the reps who work for it. But it has become, at this point, what I call a "Christian leaning" company rather than an overtly Christian one. On the other hand, the pertinent other consideration is if there is another financial company out there which is, in fact, not supporting the sexually deviant community, works to also act benevolently, and still does good financial work as well. I do not know of any which compare to it.

If you are a member, also feel free to be loud about your disapproval of their support for such groups, which is the only way to get them to reconsider; to take your money elsewhere would be to leave them simply in the hands of those pushing for this aberrant agenda. My <u>opinion</u> is if you are happy with your rep and want to still use the Thrivent Choice Dollars to support positive Christian efforts, then remain with Thrivent, but see the company for what it is, which is no longer an explicitly Lutheran financial service organization, and be loud when you disapprove of their policies.

Pastor Jon Furgeson

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - A STELLAR WEEK



Vacation Bible School at Peace was absolutely STELLAR! A big thank you to our over 70 volunteers who shared their gifts and love for Jesus with us each day. It was great to share the love of Jesus with 139 children from our congregation and the community in our three separate programs: our regular program for preschool through third grade, an advanced VBS with woodworking, handbells, and swordplay for the 4th and 5th graders, and our Lutheran Adventure Camp for the 6th graders where they learn how God works through called church workers, the radio and published word, missionaries and the LCEF to advance the Gospel and lead others to Jesus and a visit to Perryville County to learn about our Lutheran heritage. Each day we focused on the Bible verse from Matthew 5:16 and taught the children that in good and bad situations, God helps us to shine Jesus' light with other people.

Each child heard that they are a loved and forgiven child of God and no matter what happens in life to Shine Jesus' Light! The offering collected during the week went to Operation Kid-to-Kid.

We collected over \$600 which is equivalent to 50 Bibles going to children all over the world! What a blessing! Thank you to everyone in the congregation who helped donate food for our snacks and closing picnic, and for your continued prayers. At our closing, we celebrated together with the children and their families, listened to the children sing and play the handbells, and watched a picture video and sword presentation.

Mark your calendars for our 2024 VBS - June 24-28!

# PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Sunday, September 3, 2023 3:30 pm - Ice Cream served 4:00 pm - Concert

# Peace Lutheran Church

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