

Peace Notes

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From Pastor Kruse's pen

I love this time of year. The month of April typically brings in warmer breezes of air while the grass wakes up, greens, and grows. Flowers spring to life and open up. Trees are budding and about to burst into leaves. There are signs of life everywhere.

As Christians, we've been guided to the way of the cross and joyfully proclaim the "Alleluias! Christ is Risen... He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!"

Our Savior is alive and well, preparing in heaven a place for you and me, and continuing to give us forgiveness and new starts weekly through worship, the Lord's Supper; all while we're being reminded of our baptismal life in Jesus. New life, Fresh Starts, a faith filled with hope.

As Hebrews 11:1 says, "Faith is being sure of what we hope for, and certain of what we do not yet see." So, we walk by faith and not by sight.

My dearly beloved Christian friends, while this is a joyous season filled with new life, there may be some people that feel dead inside, or alone or hopeless. Pray for them. Love them. Walk with them. Let them know they are not alone. Share your love and Jesus' love with them. As you are filled with Christ, let it overflow into the lives of those around you.

As Romans 15:13 shares, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

May all of us trust in these fresh starts, daily, in Jesus. For He is alive and lives in us! Alleluia!

Pastor Kruse



Ministry Council Report

He is Risen – He is Risen Indeed!

How often have we heard those words? And yet they are as fresh and exciting as ever.

We are now blessed with having Pastor Kruse as our Spiritual Leader – something we had not even anticipated when the Council met last November. What a blessing!!

It has been a long time since I have reported on the operational activities of the Council. So now seems to be a good time. As mentioned, the Council met most recently in November (wow, that was a long time ago!!) At that meeting we took a look at projects that had been underway and those which had yet to be funded.

The biggest underway project was the upgrading of our video recording system in church. The old system was no longer meeting our needs, and, in fact, was made up of Tom Halverson's own equipment. The cost was around \$10,000 and was covered by our technology fund.

Also recently completed was the addition of a new playground playset for the older kids in the Preschool. These playsets can run over \$40,000. So, we were really happy to be able to get one on sale in late fall for \$15,000. Half of this amount was funded from operations and half funded from contributions from Little Lambs parents and from church members. As I write this we are almost there – a bit less than \$2000 to go.

One new project that was approved at our meeting was the installation of a handrail leading from the North parking lot to the church entrance. This will cost around \$16,000 – part of which is funded from direct contributions to the project and part from the building fund. Look for this to be completed very soon.

Future projects that are either “on the board” or in the planning stage are:

An update to the alarm system which informs us in the event of a power outage, fire, flood, break in, etc. The current system is flawed and outdated. We do not know the cost of this system but are awaiting an estimate.

We also have four HVAC units that are nearing the end of their useful lives and will need replacement. The cost for this project is around \$40,000.

One of the challenges (opportunities) we face is the use of space. We have so many vital and vibrant ministries at Peace – Little Lambs, Bible Classes, Sunday School, Quilters, Youth Group, that we are running out of space.

We presented this quandary at the recent Voters Meeting, and I was elated that the congregation, instead of taking the road of deciding which ministries would get more space and which not, chose to explore possible expansion of our space – what a blessing. While this is still in the beginning stages of planning, I was able to find the old blueprints that did show, as an option, the addition of three new meeting rooms adjacent to the northeast corner of Founders Hall. Stay tuned for more on this project!!

Our financial results for 2023-2024 remain positive. It is amazing how greatly contributions fluctuate from month to month. One month is \$7000 behind the prior year and the next \$11,000 ahead of the prior year.

As of the end of January, the monthly contributions are about \$1300 ahead of the prior year – so not a lot, but still ahead. Receipts from all church sources are at \$209,497 this year vs \$210,597 last year (includes misc. accounts).

The Preschool receipts are \$302,176 vs \$296,273 last year. Expenses are about even -- \$439,900 this year vs \$444,259 last year.

However, it should be noted that the Council also approved taking \$100,000 to pay down what amounted to almost a third of the mortgage on the building. The current balance is around

\$264,000, while the current value of the property is estimated at a bit under \$2.2 million.

One topic that has been on our minds a great deal is the state of volunteering at Peace. We have many people who are currently serving in a variety of roles.

However, we have two Boards which were enacted by the Constitution last June that have still not been filled: Trustees and Stewardship. We are actively seeking at least three volunteers for each of these boards.

Also, while we have a number of people who have volunteered to serve as ushers or sacramental ministers, we often have vacancies at a given service. One of the challenges is that the use of Signup Genius is not understood by many, and many do not even have access to it. So, perhaps we will be heading to a blend of using Signup Genius and a parallel system whereby holes in the schedule will be filled by assignment. We are still working out the wrinkles on this.

So...in the end Peace continues to be blessed by our Lord in many, many ways – our ministries, our volunteers, our financial resources. Let us always be mindful of those blessings and the greatest Blessing of All – His sending of our Savior – our Risen Savior.

Blessings to all,

Mike Besch

Grace-filled Aging

"Inside the Mind of a Scammer" will be the topic for Graceful Aging on Thursday, April 18 at 11am. The speaker, Ruth Bussalachi, will also appear on "Morning Blend", March 14 on Channel 4 from 9 to 10 am to speak on "Health Conditions that Mimic Dementia".

Julie Disseler

LLA NEWS & NOTES

April showers bring May flowers! The Little Lambs children will be experiencing spring and all it entails in the coming weeks!

Be sure to join us for the Annual LLA Carnival on Wednesday April 24 from 5-7pm!

We'll have games, a bounce house, raffles, food for sale and more! This is a wonderful fundraiser for our school and there are some really cool silent auction items available.

Contact Laurie at preschool@peacelutheran.org if you wish to help or donate something! We would love donations for the silent auction - think sports or event tickets, museum or outings and gift baskets.

We also need small game prizes for kids and raffle items (gently used toys that your child has grown out of). We are in need of baskets of all sizes for the auction items so please consider that as well!



Here is a little bit about what the LLA children will be doing in April:

- Our Infant and Child Care classes will get outside every day to watch the birds,

rabbits and squirrels that visit the feeders outside their window and in the yard.

- Our 2 Toddler Parent and Me class is busy learning the song “Slippery Fish” and all about ocean animals.
- Our Pre-3K class starts Spring Session 3 right after Easter, with several new three year olds joining us. We’ll learn all about colors, shapes and spring. This class meets one day per week for 2 hours.
- The 3K classes will be learning about Spring and Science during the month of April. With a traveling science box filled with supplies to do three age-appropriate experiments, the children get to build on the skills they learn during our class lessons. We observe, ask questions, make guesses and try out new things all the time. We’ll continue to work on writing our names and developing our number and scissor skills, too.
- The 4K students will continue their alphabet study with letters U, V, W and X. They will finish their study of the planets with a field trip to Retzer Nature Center and Planetarium this month. Then they’ll have Western day and even make (and eat) waffles! They continue to grow their math skills with subtraction, as they prepare for 5K.

*Stacy Abraham
3K Lead Teacher*

Loads of Plastic

Well, you did it again. We made our goal of 1,000 pounds of plastic last month.

Little Lambs has already chosen the color of the bench and I will be placing the order in the next few days.

It's nice to get a bench but the main objective is to keep this plastic out of landfills. So far, Peace and Little lambs have kept 1,500 pounds of



plastic out of landfills. We are going to continue to collect plastic for that reason.

Our next due date to meet our goal is December 2024. There is no doubt that we will make that goal with ease. Again, thank you for your great response. Keep the plastic coming!

Bob Weber

April Birthdays & Anniversaries



April 1	Bruce Roller
April 3	Sophia Gnirk Gabiella Stridde
April 6	Bill Erblich
April 7	Alex Jenks Matthew Welden
April 8	Maxwell Abel
April 9	Sara Shaffer
April 12	Linda Montano
April 14	Ben Nelson EJ Peterson

- April 15 Delores Coleman
Bob Davey
Kaia Jakubowski
Holly Kritter
- April 16 Dave Schopf
- April 17 Amy Hutter
- April 19 Mike Paddock
- April 22 Ann Aranda
- April 23 Eric Thompson
- April 25 Gary Barg
Julie Disseler
Zack Malinauskas
Matt Schneider, Jr.
Wendy Tyler
- April 28 Kim Jakubowski
- April 29 Kristina Stridde



Brad & Janet Rosandich
April 1, 1978

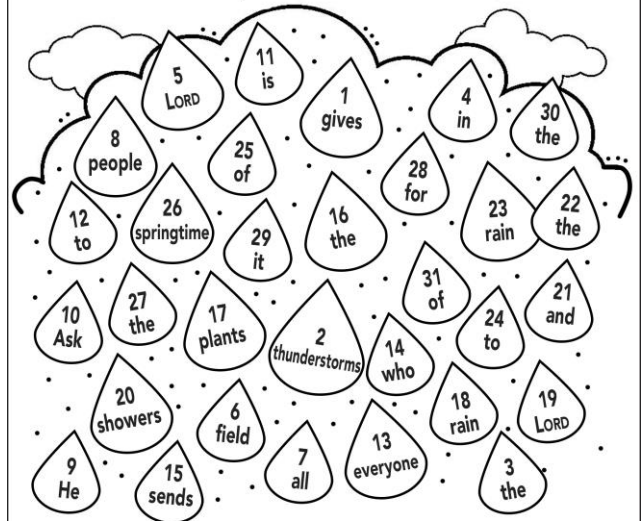
Bill & Melody Erblich
April 22, 1989



“None can believe how powerful prayer is, and what it is able to effect, but those who have learned it by experience.”
—Martin Luther

Puzzle!

Complete a Bible verse about spring by writing the word from each raindrop on the correct numbered line below.



_____ 10 _____ 16 _____ 5 _____ 28 _____ 18

_____ 4 _____ 22 _____ 26 _____ ;

_____ 29 _____ 11 _____ 3 _____ 19 _____ 14 _____ 15

_____ 27 _____ 2 _____ .

_____ 9 _____ 1 _____ 20 _____ 31 _____ 23

_____ 12 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ 21 _____ 17 _____ 25

_____ 30 _____ 6 _____ 24 _____ 13 _____

Zechariah 10:1, NIV

Answer: Ask the LORD for rain in the springtime; it is the LORD who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone. Zechariah 10:1, NIV