



# Peace Lutheran Church

1550 21<sup>st</sup> Street West

Dickinson, ND 58601-6733

[www.peacelutherandickinson.com](http://www.peacelutherandickinson.com)



## 2020 Annual Report

Prepared for the  
Annual Meeting of the Congregation  
January 17, 2021

### ***Mission Statement of Peace Lutheran Church***

*The mission of Peace Lutheran Church is to proclaim and live Christ's unconditional love to all people through Word and Sacrament, worship, prayer, education, service and fellowship. This ministry is empowered by the Holy Spirit to bring people to faith and partnership in Christ.*

Annual Meeting Agenda  
January 17, 2021, at 11:00AM

- + Call to Order and Opening Prayer
- + Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes dated January 19, 2020 .....pg. 3
- + Approval of 2021 Annual Meeting Agenda
- + Pastor’s Report.....pg. 4-5
- + Pastoral Acts.....pg. 5
- + Council President’s Report.....pg. 6
- + Community Garden Report.....pg. 7
- + Worship and Music Committee Report.....pg. 8
- + Altar Guild Report.....pg.8
- + Peace Lutheran Community Outreach.....pg.8
- + ELCA Partners
  - o Western ND Synod.....pg.8
  - o Badlands Ministries.....pg. 10
  - o LSS of ND.....pg.12
- + Caring Hands.....pg.13
- + Treasurer’s Report
- + Current Account balances – Monthly income vs expense
- + Nomination and Election of New Council Members (verbal)
- + Recognition of Council Members Completing Term (verbal)
- + Other Business
  - o Building/Maintenance Committee
  - o Other
- + Closing of Meeting
- + Adjournment

## Peace Lutheran Church Annual Meeting

January 19, 2020

- I. Bev Holdahl, President of the Council, called the meeting to order.
- II. Pastor Mike Pretzer welcomed the congregation and led us in prayer.
- III. Correction of the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes: VIII. The youth group went to Houston to the National Youth Gathering. Shane Schmidt chaperoned the group. MSC Tammy Sadowsky/Marge Gulbranson as amended.
- IV. MSC Tim Holdahl/Shelby Jilek to approve the 2020 agenda.
- V. Pastor Mike asked us to refer to his written report, and the last year has been good, with people working well together.
- VI. Pastoral Acts- Pastor Mike spoke of church activities in regards to baptism, confirmations, funerals, transfers in and out.
- VII. Council President Report- Bev referred to her written report. She highlighted lefse fundraising and that we did well in 2019 but we need more help. Lefse making days will be November 18-21. It was suggested that we have a volunteer sign-up sheet for both the lefse and rummage sale fundraisers.
- VIII. Community Garden- Pastor Mike said it was a good year, with lots of rain, and that we shared produce with the congregation and others. In 2019, we got a \$500 grant from American Bank & Trust. In 2020, we have applied for the \$550 grant from Roughrider Electric to help with cost of a new sign for the garden and a picnic table. The well water is ready to go for the forthcoming growing season.
- IX. Worship and Music Committee- Kim Jones spoke of the passing of Roene Hulsing and the impact her loss will be felt by our church family. Shelby Jilek and Terry Halverson volunteered to join the group that picks hymns for services.
- X. Altar Guild- Kim referred to her report. Interested people can contact Kim if interested in helping with the committee.
- XI. ELCA Partner- Bishop Narum farewell will be held at St. John, Dickinson.
- XII. Caring Hands- Groups have been set up, and participation is improving, but we need the congregation's help.
- XIII. Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Discussion was held regarding VB, with the few kids that participate and with the cost, it is not cost effective. Council suggested paying registration fee for kids to attend VBS at St. John, Dickinson. Pianist compensation was discussed, to increase to \$40 per service. MS Naomi Thorson/Terry Halverson. Discussion held on Kool Gang Teacher compensation \$40 per time, with a line item added to budget. I was suggested to rename the VBS/Day Camp to add Kool Gang Education. MSC Shelby Jilek/Eric Halverson to approve the 2020 budget with the discussed changes.
- XIV. Current account balances were reviewed.
- XV. Election of New Council Members. Eric Halvorson's term is ending; Tammy Sadowsky has agreed to stay on for another 3 year term. MSC Kim Jones/Derek Jilek to elect Tammy to council. Anyone interested in serving on council, please contact Pastor Mike, Bev or other council members.
- XVI. Thank you to Eric Halvorson for his service to the council and church.
- XVII. Building/Maintenance- Discussion held on parking lot, exterior church painting. Parking lot estimates \$1850,000-\$210,000. It was suggested to repair with gravel.

Quote of approximately \$12,000 to repaint the exterior church walls, soffits, and fascia. Shingles look Ok at this time. Della Christianson has offered to pay for weed spraying to control thistles, border weeds, etc. Lawn mowing was discussed; sign-up sheet for volunteers to mow will be started, post reminder in Constant Contact regarding help. (Cost to pay to have lawn mowed is \$300 per time) Reminder that we need to add to Building Fund for these projects. Thank you to Sheila for cleaning the upholstered chairs. Spring cleaning day/potluck will be planned at Council.

- XVIII. Thank you to Pastor Mike.
- XIX. Pastor Mike led us in closing prayer.
- XX. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Jones

## **Pastor's Report**

### Pastor's Reflections for the Annual Report, January 2021

As I read various articles and editorials at the beginning of January, I've noticed that most everyone writing has a comment (or two) on what a year 2020 had been. Basically they all say the same thing; it was a difficult year, it was a hard year, it was a year full of changes and going without, they're glad it's behind us, and that 2021 is bound to be better. Yes. All the reflections I have read about 2020 have been true. Collectively, everyone is ready for the previous year to go away and for 2021 to be better.

Without a doubt it has been a challenging year for our churches and church members. There have been some dramatic shifts in the way we function and worship. So many, out of a sense of safety, have completely stayed away from church altogether. Those forced, unwanted changes have been hard to handle for some. Frustrations have been running high along with stress and anxiety.

This year, we have also had some great and wonderful things happen in the midst of the changes. Peace Lutheran received a PPP Loan, we now have an on-line worship presence, Devotions from the Badlands was established, there has been more collaborative work with area ELCA churches offering a variety of meaningful worship and prayer experiences, and Zoom has become a new friend.

In the midst of hardship and change, we grow. In the midst of the challenges and the hurdles of life, we have others to hold onto and to walk with. Through it all, God is near and at work.

So, in this "article" or perhaps "editorial" from your pastor, I want to leave you with two quotes that are meant to give us hope that God is near and at work. The first comes from a Catholic Priest who shares a daily meditation from the Center for Action and Contemplation. "No matter what is going on around us, it's important to remember that God keeps transforming creation into something both good and new. Instead of hurtling us towards catastrophe, God always wants to bring us somewhere even better." - Richard Rohr. That is to say that even in these difficult times, God is working for good and you are growing in a new direction. On the

other side of this, we will be better!

The second thing I want to share is from Teresa of Avila who lived from 1515 to 1582. She wrote,

Let nothing disturb you.  
Let nothing upset you.  
Everything changes.  
God alone is unchanging.  
With patience all things are possible.  
Whoever has God lacks nothing.  
God alone is enough.

Both witnesses encourage us to keep the faith. God will remain faithful to us. We are to remain faithful to God. Our faithfulness means that we put fear aside, that we love God with all our heart, mind and strength, and that we love our neighbor as our self. It also means that we work for justice and peace in our home, community and world.

May that be what we are about in 2021.

With Peace,

Pastor Mike Pretzer

## **2020 Pastoral Acts at Peace Lutheran Church, Dickinson, ND**

### Baptisms

1. Colter Ray Jilek 2-23-20

### Confirmations

1. Kylar Ryan Blotske 9-16-20
2. Kylie M Goetz 9-13-20
3. Ethan Robert Halverson 9-13-20
4. Sierra Elaine Schilling 9-13-20
5. Rylen Brock Swensrud 9-13-20

### Funerals

1. Donald Mattheis 10-29-20
2. Gary Odegaard 11-25-20

### Weddings

1. Jessica Olson and Randy Pierce 5-15-20
2. Danette Becker and Kolten Sabinash 6-20-20

## Transferred In

1. Dustin and Stephanie Rau, Aubrey and Emmitt 2-23-20
2. Brock and Kristie White, Laila and Emma Murray 2-23-20

## Transferred Out

None

## **Council President report**

Dear Peace Members

What a year we have had! 2020 started out pretty good but by mid-March our world as we knew it changed dramatically. Working with area churches kept our members connected to church and seeing or hearing our own Pastor leading some of those Sunday worship services kept our members connected those first few months of the pandemic. Summer brought outdoor worship, it was really nice to enjoy the beautiful mornings praising God in nature – even with traffic noise! Amazingly we had beautiful weather for all but one service. The fall brought us back inside, spread out, but still together. We continue to do our best to worship safely together. We wear masks to protect our neighbor, hand sanitizer is available and the church is cleaned regularly. Thank you to those who have continued to worship with us either in person or on Facebook. We appreciate your support, through prayer and of course financially. We will continue to work to get better sound on the Facebook live services, with so many using this format, phone adapter mics are in short supply. Any feedback from the live streamed services is always welcome.

Thank you to all who have helped with the mowing, tree trimming and the many other projects that happened around the church this past year. Volunteers are what keep our church running smoothly.

As our world adapts to new a new normal, we will continue to gather in person as much as possible and as the pandemic calms down we will continue to strive to become normal in this crazy world we live in.

Grace and Peace to all

Bev Holdahl

President, Peace Lutheran Church

## 2020 Community Garden Report

It was a dry year for Peace Lutheran's Community Garden. The rains were few and far between for this year's gardeners. However, we were able to utilize the well water on the church property for all of the watering needs. The gardeners who watered diligently had a very successful growing season.

This year, there were 13 gardeners and 34 plots rented, up from 12 gardeners and 27 plots rented in 2019.

In January the garden fund received a grant from Roughrider Electric's Round Up program in the amount of \$550. This grant was used to purchase a sign for the garden, a picnic table and a bench. Thank you to Jeff Anderson for reinforcing the sign. Thank you to Terry, Eric, Ethan and Evy Halvorson for installing the sign. Thank you also to Marcus Lewton for donating two handmade wooden benches to the garden. In the spring a volunteer group installed a weed barrier between the plot rows. Unfortunately the wind was not friendly to the weed barrier so a new plan will have to be implemented in 2021.

Once again, the Wednesday night worship and faith formation group did a fall service project clean up night to benefit the garden! It was great! In short order people cleaned up plots, hauled out plants, picked rocks and tidied up the space. Thank you to all who helped with that service project! It made a big difference!

Goals and plans for 2021 include:

- increasing the number of gardeners and plots rented
- installing rock around the well and hose area
- figure out a good mulch or weed barrier in between plots and unrented plots
- have gatherings and a social with the gardeners
- getting more publicity and exposure for the garden
- and, with another good growing season, share the fruits of our labor

*"The Peace Lutheran Community Garden strives to provide fertile garden space for people  
in  
Dickinson to grow their own healthy and nutritious food."*

### **Plantings in the Church Parking Lot "Island"**

Another gardening project took place in the spring in the church parking lot. A volunteer work group was assembled in May, Thrivent Action Team dollars were received and the hard work of cleaning, planting, and re-rocking the raised space in the parking lot took place. Thank you so much to all of the volunteers who raked the rocks off the space, planted the bushes, set the angel in place, installed landscape fabric, re-rocked around the plants, and laid the stones for the path! It was very hard work, but the effort turned out beautifully! We now have a very

attractive space in the parking lot that we can be proud of! Special thank you to Della Christiansen who donated the angel and helped organize the project.

Respectfully submitted by,

Pastor Mike Pretzer

### **Worship and Music Committee Report**

Members of the committee are Marge Gulbranson, Terry Halvorson, Shelby Jilek, Naomi Thorson, Sandy Weisenberger, Pastor Mike and Kim Jones. Thank you to the pianists and musicians that provided music for services this year: Tim Holdahl, Matthew, Miya and Alecia Pretzer, Carrie Mitzel, Sandy Weisenberger, and Kim Jones.

Anyone interest in becoming involved with worship and music, with playing piano for services or providing special music, please contact any committee member.

### **Altar Guild Report**

The Altar Guild helps set up for communion, change banners and altar paraments during the Church seasons, sets up the Advent wreath, checks and fills candles with oil. Thank you to Pastor Mike for baking the communion bread and packing the cup and bread squares in individual zip lock bags so communion could be celebrated during this pandemic. Also thanks to Carolyn Blake, Judy Koffler, Tim and Bev Holdahl, and Kim Jones for helping with tasks.

### **Peace Lutheran Church Community Outreach**

Here are some of the groups that currently use or have used our buildings in the past year:

- Kid Academy Preschool.
- Room to Bloom Preschool.
- Thursday Night and Saturday morning AA groups.
- Beginning Experience

Thank you Peace Lutheran for opening your hearts and your building to all people a safe space to grow and improves their lives through these various groups.

### **2020 Bishop's Reflection for Annual Reports**

Bishop Craig Schweitzer

“And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 27:20b

Brothers and sisters in Christ of the Western North Dakota SynodELCA, grace and peace to you in the name of our savior Jesus.

To say that 2020 has been a year like no other is kind of an understatement. As the calendar page turns to 2021 and most of us walk in the light of the Epiphany season, may Jesus' words to us in Matthew's gospel be with us.

In March 2020, the world changed quickly and unexpectedly forever. As coronavirus made its way into every corner of God's creation, nobody was left unaffected. I cannot speak highly enough for the ways that Church Councils and synod staff, Rostered Ministers and lay leaders across the synod learned to adjust quickly, faithfully, and safely. Most of us planned for a few weeks of uncertainty. Then a few months. And now we know for certain that the impact of COVID-19 on our congregations and world will impact generations to come. Through it all, we held tightly to Jesus' promise to be with us always.

On July 17, my call in the church changed quickly and unexpectedly forever. While I continue to grieve the ministry of being a parish pastor, I am also thankful that being part of the synod literally means that we are walking together. I'm thankful that as I serve as your Bishop, we serve together. For that truth I am very grateful. And even more grateful for the truth that Jesus' is serving with us on the way.

On July 28 and October 19, significant health events changed my family quickly and unexpectedly forever. My wife Wendy's accident on July 28 is not necessarily life-threatening but will forever be life changing. Her complete healing is anticipated to take at least another year. My mother's death on October 19 due to COVID-19 was also life changing. Her death was not expected. She was supposed to be present physically for my installation as Bishop on November 1. I continue to grieve her death. I also continue to be reminded each day that when Jesus promises to be with us always, it's to the end of the age, not to the end of our earthly life.

Brothers and sisters, I am grateful for each one of you. The Western North Dakota synod is grateful for each one of you. Because God is with you, pastors and deacons are lifted up to serve in our faith communities. Because God is with you, our neighbors are blessed as we live out our calling from God to serve. Because God is with you, the mission of the church to share the good news of Jesus Christ happens in big and beautiful ways – across the prairies of our synod and in every corner of God's good creation. As we look beyond the crazy and bizarre time that was 2020, may we always look forward knowing that Jesus is with us. And because of that truth, we have nothing to fear.

## **Badlands Ministries**

### **Highlights from 2020**

- We ministered to 326 campers on-site this summer. While we did not host any day camps due to the pandemic, we did share our curriculum with 2 churches who did their own programs. We were able to hold one outreach event outdoors for approximately 100 youth and their families. While those number are a huge drop from a typical year, we are proud we were able to share our program on-site to close to 80% of the number of campers we normally do despite the

challenges of the pandemic. Only one in five camps like us throughout the country held on-site camp at all last summer.

- While most of our retreats and events were cancelled this year, we were able to serve 151 participants through the few retreats and events we were able to host. We served an additional 300 people through two fund-raisers we held outdoors. Badlands Ministries also hosted an additional 670 guests on-site through 27 site-rentals in 2020 (including 3 outdoor weddings, 7 corporate groups, and 15 ministry-related groups. Due to the pandemic, Badlands Ministries had an additional 33 groups reschedule or cancel, and we lost \$53,925 in group revenue in 2020.
- We received \$37,500 in new cash and pledges from generous and faithful donors in our 2020 towards capital projects and \$20,000 towards our Qualified Endowment Fund. We also received \$44,244.37 in a new estate gifts in 2020. The total between our two trust funds is \$200,303.16.
- We hosted three successful fund-raising events. Our golf-tournament raised \$17,292, and our Fall Event raised \$28,353. Giving Hearts Day (an on-line fundraiser) raised \$31,728.70. In total, we were blessed to raise \$77,378.70 through fund-raising events this past year.
- This year I again had the privilege to oversee an excellent, faithful, and extremely dedicated staff. While our new Associate Director Christine Moe did not officially start until the beginning of the summer, she worked with our former Summer Program Director Suzanna Moberg starting in December to help with program responsibilities and getting us ready for the summer. Starting in June, we were back to 7 year-round staff (4 full-time and 3 part-time). They include Office Manager Donna Sandvik, Associate Director Christine Moe, Director of Groups Sales and Hospitality Debi Simmonds, Site Manager Bernie Kordonowy, Environmental Services Manager Erin Odell, and Retreat Center Assistant Marie Odermann
- I led and participated in task force and ministry team meetings this past year. We have 6 ministry teams including: Financial Oversight, Financial Development, Program, Facilities, Personnel & Board Development, and Outreach & Communications.
- I actively promoted Badlands Ministries' year-round programs and facilities through marketing, public relations, social media, site tours, preaching, and communication with pastors, congregations, delegates, user groups, and campers.

Other miscellaneous highlights from the year:

- Achieved goal of providing our summer program to campers onsite this summer, despite the pandemic. Created modified procedures and carefully followed CDC, American Camping Association, and ND Department of Health guidelines while still providing our traditional camp experience that our campers love.
- Secured funding for new cabinets for our new canteen/staff building.
- Continued to collaborate with groups to host camps and events at Badlands Ministries even though several of the groups planning on using our site had to postpone until 2021.
- Served on Nominations Committee for the national Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Network
- Hired Christine Moe (former Program Director from 2005-2009) to serve as our Associate Director.
- Constructed final two new camper cabins and began work to renovate church basement. We also completed both our new low and high ropes courses. We are grateful to our skilled and dedicated Site Manager Bernie Kordonowy and to all our helpful volunteers.

- Submitted applications and was awarded \$55,200 Payroll Protection Program Loan (assumed to be forgivable) and \$5,712.17 for a North Dakota Economic Resiliency Grant.
- Managed another positive Operating Fund Budget balance in 2020 despite the pandemic.
- Took part in a national Independent Camper Parent Survey in which parent responses were overwhelmingly positive. The average ranking on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being a superior experience was a 9.56. The vast majority reported that their children had fun, made friends, tried new things, and were strengthened in their faith.

### **Director Summary for 2020**

This has been a difficult year for everyone. No one could have imagined that we would all be consumed by a global pandemic that has drastically changed the way we live. As the pandemic hit the US in the Spring, it was extra challenging for Badlands Ministries to determine how to proceed and do what was best for those we serve. Thankfully, I have a wonderful board of directors and a great staff. While there was much uncertainty, we were resolved that we would find a way to do ministry somehow and in some way. We were blessed to be one of the 20% of ELCA camps that were able to have onsite programs this summer. We were able to make some operational modifications to follow safety protocols while still providing powerful small group ministry. We not only were able to serve 80% of our normal onsite campers this summer, but we learned through a parent survey that our campers had a truly wonderful and meaningful experience. We were able to accomplish this only by the grace of God, and I am proud of the amazing group of young adults we hired who made extra sacrifices to share their faith with the youth and families we serve.

It was a huge blessing to have Christine Moe back on staff serving in the new role of Associate Director. Her excellent leadership was one of the reasons our challenging summer went so well. I also cannot give enough praise and recognition to my other year-round staff. They now have 44 years of experience working at camp between them, and they are a remarkable team. Despite operating during a pandemic, there was plenty of other things for us to celebrate. We completed our final two new camper cabins and got to use our new canteen/staff building for this first time this past summer. We overcame many additional pandemic related obstacles, and still got both our new low and high ropes course completed. Thanks to a PPP Loan/Grant and a large amount of generous and faithful donors, we were even able to overcome operational losses due to the pandemic and celebrate a positive budget at the end of our fiscal year. Few camps in the entire country were able to serve campers and have a positive budget this year, and we thank God we were one of them.

Even though there is much uncertainty as we head into 2021, our commitment to do ministry remains. We are planning to hold year-round retreats and events as well as summer camp programs again next year, but we are also making sure we build flexibility into our plans so we are ready to adapt as needed. Our site has never looked better, and I cannot wait to host groups soon. We look forward to serving large numbers of campers and guests as soon possible. I also look forward, as always, to working with a great board of directors, wonderful staff, generous donors, and all those we are blessed to serve. We continue strive to fulfill our mission knowing that God provides. As always, it is truly an honor to serve as your camp director.

### **Plans for 2021**

- Continue to raise funds for our operating fund and capital improvement needs

- Grow our Heritage Society and continue to promote our trust funds to ensure our future.
- Continue to manage, support, and empower a dedicated staff.
- Continue to increase summer camper and year-round retreat registrations (as possible during the pandemic)
- Continue to build and maintain positive relationships with our supporting congregations
- Continue to work collaboratively with our ministry partners and others who can help us propel our mission
- Continue to fulfill the objectives of our strategic plan and annual goals.

Together in Christ,  
Brent Seaks

## **Lutheran Social Services of ND**

January 2021

To sisters and brothers in Christ across the Western North Dakota Synod:

Peace from your partners in ministry at Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota!

Since 1919, Lutheran Social Services has been an extension of care across North Dakota with programs that often have grown from needs identified at the congregational level.

Your churches offer several programs that address local concerns. I first heard about parish nurses 25 or 30 years ago. Stephen Ministries, an idea hatched by one seminary student, started in the late 1970s with nine congregational volunteers. Many worship communities today sponsor day cares, facilitate support groups and respond to social inequities.

Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota provides services that many congregations could not afford individually because of expertise or complexity or even cost. Licensed counselors and social workers coach neighbors through difficult times. Child care specialists guide growing families through change and uncertainty. Another team works with seniors on safe, independent living in familiar settings. A network of agencies and government resources helps communities recover from natural disasters.

Last year, 155 congregations across the state supported Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota with financial gifts, recognizing the importance of care for our neighbors.

This extended ministry needs congregations from Fairmount to Fortuna, from Rhame to The Red. I appreciate my new friendship with Bishop Craig Schweitzer and the continued presence of the bishop and his staff in the LSSND Bismarck Program Center.

As the world in 2021 hopefully emerges from a global pandemic, I look forward to visiting congregations and building connections with sisters and brothers in Lutheran parishes and with ecumenical partners all over North Dakota.

Your congregation has changed over its history — different pastors, updated facilities, new programs. Similarly, the agency has changed over 102 years. I expect Lutheran Social Services

will adapt to reflect the needs of North Dakota and the realities around us, and I look forward to sharing with you those stories about LSS and the people our agency serves.

Thank you for your partnership and your generosity. Best wishes for 2021!

Blessings,

Bob Otterson President and CEO

## Caring Hands

### **January, May, & September**

Bette Madler  
Phyllis Nordeng  
Tim & Bev Holdahl  
Carolyn Blake  
Gregg & Jessica Bertelsen  
Becky O'Neal  
Sheila Schilling  
Deanna Davenport  
Don & Erika Schumacher  
Don Fersger  
Dean & Lola Hushka  
Shantel Petroff

### **March, July, & November**

Marge & Duane Gulbrandson  
Amanda & Allen Hecker  
Jeff & Peggy Anderson  
Ryan & Rena Zimmerman  
Melody & Jerry Buresch  
Jeff Merchant  
Angela & Jason Ott  
Brianna Hahne  
Cassie Blotske  
Candy Haagenson  
Bob Thompson

### **February, June, & October**

Steve & Sandra Day  
Derek & Shelby Jilek  
Kim & Mike Jones  
Mike & Alecia Pretzer  
Dustin & Stephanie Rau  
Travis & Lisa Holding Eagle  
Eric & Terry Halvorson  
Joy Knotte  
Greg & Amy Beck  
Karen Dowhaniuk  
Craig Lange  
Joren Nordahl

### **April, August, & December**

Naomi Thorson  
Della Christiansen  
Pat & David Rinn  
Tammy Sadowsky  
Judy & Richard Koffler  
Joyce Crawford  
Marilyn Huschka  
Travis & Crissie Kupper  
Jami & Brock Swensrud  
Adam & Susie Karpyak  
Shawn & Chelsea Skoge