

THE PEACE RELEASE

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 2024

3828 Cleveland Ave. SW Canton, Ohio 44707

facebook.com/peacecanton



Dear Members and Friends of Peace Lutheran Church,

We are in the first full week of the Holy Season of Lent. The congregation Handbook on the Disciplines of Lent has been taken by most. It is not too late to pick up your copy or have one mailed to you.

The Holy Season of Lent is a very restrained time in our spiritual and worship life. The cross is draped with a purple cloth, the processional cross is veiled in purple. Liturgical music is spoken. We enter the sanctuary with reverence and in silence (and leave in silence). It is my practice not to greet at the end of the liturgies of Holy Week, which begins with the Sunday of the Passion, Palm Sunday.

So far, I have received appreciation for what is being offered both mid-week and on Sundays in Lent, in addition to anticipation of our Holy Week worship experience. If you have not taken advantage of these worship opportunities before, I strongly encourage you to do so this year. It is and will not be like what the members of Peace have previously experienced.

I encourage you to seek out other members to hear what they have been experiencing so far, and what they are looking forward to too.

Lent, Holy Week and the Triduum have always been deeply meaningful for me and in the pastoral ministry in the congregations that I have served. Why? I thought you would never ask! It's because it is the CRUX of our faith, life, and mission!!

Members of other congregations still contact me this time of year via emails. They still recall what was offered, and what they experienced.

*Here is a sampling of genuine and specific feedback from various members. I offer it for your consideration. **(All of these are quotes)***

Adult Female---*I found the foot washing on Maundy Thursday to be a particularly moving experience. Sometimes when new practices are demonstrated it shines a new light on the story we're so familiar with and how Jesus made so many sacrifices for us.*

Youth---- I discovered that the washing of the feet on Maundy Thursday was very touching to me because it reminded me that Jesus washed his twelve disciples' feet at the last supper.

Adult Female-----My spiritual experience of the Triduum this year was enhanced in many ways over the past. The write-ups provided in both the handbook for Lenten discipline and the Everything you wanted to know about the Triduum and glad you asked, provided me background information on what the Triduum was about and what one might expect.

The Absolution on Maundy Thursday had a special spiritual sense as we have been discussing the painting The Return of the Prodigal Son in bible study. When your hands were placed upon my head, I felt God's forgiveness like never before. Following this with the exchange of peace left me feeling free and cleansed.

Speaking of being cleansed, the washing of the feet also remains in my heart and mind. Honored to be asked, I was reminded that I am a servant of God and must be mindful to do the work of God, each and every day of my life.

Good Friday was always a scary service to me as a child, and now is to my daughter. The retelling of the crucifixion in the R.C. church was always done with the parishioners playing the part of the Jews yelling Crucify him and Free Barabbas.

I was not comfortable saying those words, but now have come to understand why we must do so and face the fact that we are sinful beings. The solemnity and minimalist way in which it was done helped me to embrace the service.

My favorite service of the entire year has come to be the Easter Vigil. This year's service clearly leads the pack! The music alone is enough to bring me to tears as I felt the Holy Spirit all around us. The Service of Readings was especially alluring with the various readers partaking in the stories. The theatrics that were incorporated into the change from darkness to light was fantastic! Baptisms rarely fail to help me feel the Holy Spirit. The Baptism of an adult and at the Easter Vigil did so ever more. (Almost like the change from dark to light.)

I was extremely fulfilled in a spiritual sense by this year's Triduum. I thank you for the time and effort you put in not only into preparing the services, but also for the printed handouts. I learned and understood more this year than ever before. I look forward to enhancing my understanding and growing closer to my Lord in the years ahead.

Three Days as one service. The way the services flowed together was very spiritual. From the foot washing on Maundy Thursday, approaching the Crucifix at the end of the Good Friday to ushering in the Risen Lord of Light at the vigil, it was a truly amazing experience.

Female-*I can honestly say I've never experienced anything so moving before. I always knew and understood what Easter meant. I always thought I could understand what that feeling was. Well until Good Friday I realized I didn't.*

It wasn't until that service that I truly understood Jesus' sacrifice for us and following his word is so important. I felt, I let God my Father down. I felt and understood his disappointment in us that he gave up his only Son for us and we take this for granted.

I see the world differently and I have you to thank. I know I am not a perfect Lutheran. I might forget to do my bible study homework or fall asleep during bible study but if it weren't for you, my faith would not be growing. God does enter our lives and he did it through you for me. At first, I did not get you, but the more I know you the more I understand, respect, and love you. Your love for God and the honesty and truth of your preaching is just what this congregation needs. I'm honored to call you pastor and will remain so. You've opened my eyes to new gratitude and an honest love for my Lord, my God.

Female----*My Lenten Journey and Triduum experience has indeed enriched my spiritual life. It's been a blessing. Thank you so very much for your love and dedication to us. Maundy Thursday experience was very special to me as I was one of the privileged to have had my foot washed by a very dedicated Pastor Phil.*

This particular service has always been very meaningful to me because of the Last Supper served by Jesus to his disciples. Also, the laying on of both your hands by you on each person's head forgiving their sins was very touching. It was also special to have my dear friend Betsy worship with me. She was truly impressed and delighted to take part in Maundy Thursday. The stripping of the altar and the darkness leave me sad and in tears. Good Friday another special service where remembering and feeling the real crucifixion of Jesus was very apparent. In the Gospel of John chapter 19 vs. twenty-three, it was written that one of the soldiers plunged his spear in Jesus, side blood and water poured out. This was very well brought out to life by you when you poured the wine and then added the water. The large crucifix carried by you into a darkened church and place on the altar. It sure was a wonderful feeling to place my hands on the cross. Very meaningful to this worship.

Easter Vigil----celebrating the Triduum /three days of preparation for Jesus' death. It comes to an end in darkness, prayer, and music. It was long but very impressive. To be present when the church was brought back to life with you and the visiting deacon returning in white robes and the return of the altar with linens, paraments and lilies cannot be put into words Alleluia! Christ is Risen...He is RISEN INDEED! Thank you Thank You Thank you. I will never forget Easter 2010 and it is all because of you and all the preparations for making it so!

Male-*I was impressed and awed by the Triduum. I've never viewed the Three Days as one service. The way the services flowed together was very spiritual. From the foot washing on Maundy Thursday, approaching the Crucifix at the end of the Good Friday to ushering in the Risen Lord of Light at the vigil, it was a truly amazing experience.*

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Thank you Thank You Thank you. I will never forget Easter
2010 and it is all because of you and all the preparations for
making it so.
I hope that these responses are helpful and open your hearts
and minds to experience the same.*

*In Christ,
Pastor Phil+*



Worship at 7pm

Preceded by Soup and Bread at 6pm

2.28.24- --I HAVE PRAYED FOR YOU

In this service for Week 3 of Lent, we listen to Luke tell about what he wrote in his Gospel about Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

3.6.24--- FATHER, FORGIVE THEM

In this service for Week 4 of Lent, we listen to Luke tell about what he wrote in his Gospel about the crucifixion of Jesus.

3.13.24--- I AM HE

In this service for Week 5 of Lent, we listen to John tell about what he wrote in his Gospel about Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

3.20.24---BEHOLD YOUR KING

In this service for Week 6 of Lent, we listen to John tell about what he wrote in his Gospel about the crucifixion of Jesus

SUNDAYS IN LENT SERMON SERIES

By My Hand For My Sake

What is your role in the suffering and death of Christ?

Monologues by biblical characters who actually did have a hand in the crucifixion of Christ.

2.25.24–Nicodemus

3.3.24–Judas

3.10.24–Barabbas

3.17.24–Pilate

HELLO EVERYONE!

As a reminder, the deadline for content in the Peace release is the 20th of each month. I need to add this to my calendar too 😊

You will read more in the release, but I want to share we have added a Saturday service during Holy Week. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and The Great Vigil of Easter (Saturday) will all begin at 7pm.

There are signup sheets if anyone needs transportation to any service. We will hold one "service" on Easter at 8am with breakfast to follow!

The 2024 council is continuing our work on Phase 2: Discernment. I was asked recently, "Are we still looking for a Pastor?" Before I answer, let me explain.

We must complete Phase 2, which is a large step, before creating a call committee (active searching). Phase 2 forces us to look back, recall our history night 1 and 2. Phase 2 also forces us to evaluate what our priorities are. The following is printed on the bulletin board

<i>Essential ministry task</i>	<i>Helpful ministry task</i>
<i>Evangelism</i>	<i>Communications</i>
<i>Pastoral Care</i>	<i>Mission</i>
<i>Visitation</i>	<i>Teaching</i>
<i>Youth/Family Ministry</i>	<i>Young Adult Ministry</i>
<i>Preaching</i>	<i>Music/Worship/Arts</i>

Top priority Gifts of our Pastor	Very helpful Gifts of our Pastor
<i>Help people develop their spiritual life</i>	<i>Provide care and nurture</i>
<i>Be active in visitation of members and non-members</i>	<i>Be effective in working with children</i>
<i>Be an effective communicator</i>	<i>Be an effective teacher</i>
<i>Be effective in working with youth</i>	<i>Encourage support of the Church's wide mission</i>
<i>Be able to share leadership and work in a team</i>	<i>Deal effectively with conflict</i>

Council also identified our core values: **Faith, Family, and Love**

Phase 2 also requires us to evaluate our Strength, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threats. As a church we completed this by answering the questions in the survey during our November Congregational Meeting. The results are also printed on the bulletin board and shown below.

SWOT results from survey	
<i>Strengths:</i> <i>Serving community</i> <i>Considers members like family</i>	<i>Weaknesses:</i> <i>Outreach teaching faith</i> <i>Retaining young members</i>
<i>Opportunities:</i> <i>Explaining our traditions</i> <i>Outreach partnership</i>	<i>Threats:</i> <i>Aging/decreasing membership</i> <i>Financial sustainability</i>

Council has met three times: January 23, February 3, and February 22 to create our Mission and Vision. At the writing of this notice the 2/22 meeting is scheduled in two days. - update will be shared as soon as possible.

Once council creates our Mission and Vision. We will then create the strategy our church would need to follow to fulfill our Mission and Vision. The last step is to identify our staffing needs. Once this is completed we are then ready to begin Phase 3. Phase 3, we will create our Ministry Site Profile and build our Call Committee.

*So, to answer the question - yes, we are looking for a new pastor, but before we are **actively** looking, we have to answer, Who are we and what are we wanting to be? If we don't know those answers we won't know what kind of Pastor we need.*

Hopefully this recap helps and is not a surprise but a reminder of where we are in this process. At the end of February, we will be one full year without a called pastor. We have done a lot of great things in this time for our Church. We hosted Girl Scout Day at church, held Vacation Bible School, had several delicious potlucks, started an adult education series, confirmation classes, added scheduled ushers and greeters, inclusion of youth acolytes, outreach connections with other ministries, brought back Fall Fest, and recently held our first Shrove dinner in several years. We also maintain other things very important to us: Sunday school, Food pantry, Salt and Light, Advent nights and Live Nativity. There are numerous other great things happening and it shouldn't be overshadowed by the absence of a called pastor. We will get there, we are getting there, and I'm hopeful for our future.

As always, it's best to hear directly from you. Please continue to reach out and ask questions. The more we communicate the better!

Angela

FLOWER ORDERS FOR EASTER

Order forms for Easter flowers are in the narthex, and on Facebook. All orders must be in no later than Sunday March 10, 2024.

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Each week of the six weeks of Lent, Peace will hold a mid-week service in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. The service will be preceded by a soup and bread meal at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The Soup & Bread suppers are hosted by:

2/28–Deb & Darlie

3/6–Edie & Kris

3/13–Christine & Angela B

3/20–Lisa & Joanne S

LENTEN PROJECT FOR PEACE LUTHERAN

The Lenten service project from our Service Committee has begun and continues through March 24 to benefit The Diaper Bank. Empty pill bottles filled with quarters to be used in laundromats and personal care items are being collected in the narthex. Thank you for your generosity.

PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, **March 7 at 4:30 p.m.**

CHURCH COUNCIL

Monday, **March 11 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall..**

SERVICE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, **March 6** at 5 p.m., café

CHANGES FOR ADULT EDUCATION HOUR:

We will **not** have Adult Education hour March 10,17, Palm Sunday, and Easter Sunday.

Adult Education Hour **will resume April 7** at 10:45 a.m.

HELP FILL OUR EASTER EGGS!

There is a collection box in the narthex for Easter candy to fill the Easter eggs for our Easter morning egg hunt at Peace Lutheran Church. All donations will be greatly appreciated by our children. Thank you.

ATTENTION WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

March 10 and 17 following worship Ushers, Lectors, Communion Assistants, Altar Guild and choir members are to attend rehearsal for Holy Week worship. Pastor will be holding these practices during the Education Hour (10:45-11:45). It is extremely important that you be present. Thank you.

YOUTH ARE INVITED

The Outreach committee is inviting youth volunteers to help prepare three-dozen colored eggs that will be placed in bags with paper grass and a short Easter devotion. These will be available on Palm Sunday for members to take to shut ins.



SHARE THE LOVE

These are pictures from the Share the Love drive-through drop off that we did Friday, February 10, at Peace. The Canton South Sandy Valley communities overwhelmed us with their generosity towards Five Loaves and Two Fishes. We were able to fill two vehicles to the top with your donations. Thank you so much.

Matthew 25:35-37 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. "

EASTER BREAKFAST

Easter Sunday we will celebrate with a breakfast prepared by the men of our church. They are asking that you sign up to bring baked goods. Look for a sign-up sheet soon to be placed in the narthex.

WE ARE FILLING 1,500 EGGS!

Saturday, March 23, Peace will join the Canton Township Easter Egg Hunt at Faircrest Park at 10 a.m. for children ages 2 years to 5th grade. We will be filling 1,500 eggs for this project.

POLICY FOR CANCELLATION OF A MEETING

If you need to cancel a meeting, please let the office or Pastor know in a timely fashion. Thank you.

BINGO!

Our Bingo is the second Sunday of each month at 1 p.m. Three games, including snacks, for \$15 is a bargain for an afternoon with friends and laughter. The afternoon would be even more fun if you would join us! The profits from Bingo help fund our Building Faith Scholarship for a Canton South graduate. **March 10 is our next Bingo!**

THE PEACE RELEASE IS NOW MONTHLY!

All items for the Peace Release must be received by the office no later than the 20th of the preceding month to be included in the new monthly Peace Release. The March issue will be distributed February 25. Be sure to get your **April information** to the office no later than **March 20 (Wednesday)**.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS

Sunday morning, March 10, Daylight Saving Time starts. Clocks will be turned forward.

ALTAR FLOWERS

During the Season of Lent, we will have altar flowers. If you provided altar flowers during that time in former years, you may want to consider the dates we have available this year: Easter Sunday, April 28, June 30, September 29 and December 29. Let the church office know if you would like to provide the altar flowers for one of those date. Thank you.

FINANCIAL REPORT

JANUARY 2024

Total contributions	\$15,354.74
Less payments from checking	\$17,514.94
Total transfers from savings	\$2,160.20
Deficit for the month	\$2,160.20
Deficit for the year	\$2,160.20

TIME TO UPDATE THRIVENT PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES.

Each year you are asked to update Thrivent Direct Choice Dollars and each year you can apply for a Thrivent Action Team card. You can do both by going to thrivent.com and clicking the path of your choice. The office has further information, if needed.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Nadine, Dan, John, Pat, David, Carolyn, Kathy, Matthew & Melissa, Darlene, Rev. Steve & Ruth, Don, Xavier Miller, Rebecca, DeeDee, Marci, Don, Pam, Kent, Linda, Tim.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Linda K.	03/02	Caven L.	03/27
Marilyn O.	03/04	Gloria M.	03/27
Michael S.	03/14	Grant K.	04/02
Georgie R.	03/15	Patsy M.	04/02
Debbie M.	03/16	Jase S.	04/02
Faye K.	03/21	Pat C.	04/04
Maggie M.	03/26		

HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY!

DeAnna & Charles

03/05/2005

Susan & Bob

03/16/1974

Patsy & Gust

04/02/1994