

Tidings of Peace

October 2017 Newsletter of
Peace Lutheran Church, Deshler, Nebraska

Public Office Hours: 9:00-12:30 / 1:00 - 2:30 Mon., Tues., Thurs.,
9:00 - 12:30 / 1:00 - 5:30 Wednesday (Secretary Office Closed Friday)

◆ **Phones:** Office: 402-365-7746 ◆ Preschool/Parish Hall: 402-365-7855 ◆
◆ Pastor Rich Stevenson, Pastor ◆ Marla Maschmann, Office Administrator ◆
◆ Dave Weber, President ◆ Kristi Duensing, Youth ◆
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Mission Festival Sunday, October 15, 2017

Hope Pregnancy Center, Superior NE

Life Is a Gift



- 9:00 AM Sunday School Hour

- 10:00 AM Worship

with guest speaker, Janice Reinke, Director.

There will be a free will offering at the door on this Sunday and those with envelopes may use their envelope marked "Mission Festival Offering".

How would one describe Hope Pregnancy Center in 50 words or less?

Free, confidential, pro-life, pro-family, and pro-traditional marriage, non-profit and totally donor financed, staffed by caring, supportive and common-sense volunteers, available to mothers, fathers, other care-givers, and teens, providing curriculum that can sharpen parental skills, can build up relational strengths and increase financial competence through the expertise of renowned authors and speakers based on Christian truths. Participating clients receive incentives for willingly attending and completing lessons appropriate to their needs.

Janice Reinke's Bio: As a lifelong resident of Thayer County, married to Delmar, mother of three, and grandmother of eight and incomparably ordinary, I've willingly volunteered as mentor at Hope Pregnancy Center for 18 years. Along with my pro-life views, I had a passion for teens and young people that struggled with social issues. So, I completed my training at the AAA Crisis Pregnancy Center in Hastings on April 1st, thus I consider myself a "fool for God". I really never intended to be a lay counselor or parent mentor and certainly not a Director, but I realized the on-the-job training had started years prior to 1999 as a mother and Sunday School teacher, while I listened to Christian radio/talk shows and through my love of reading.

God continues to equip me for this purpose through media and my interaction with people.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace, as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. ~ Romans 15:13

With
Ceaseless
Praise!

Confirmation Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, October 29, 2017, with the list of confirmands still pending as they are completing requirements.

We will also celebrate the 500th Anniversary of The Reformation.

500TH
Anniversary
OF THE REFORMATION

2017 is a very special year for Lutherans, as it marks the 500th anniversary of the year Martin Luther made his 95 Theses known to the world, thus changing the history of the church, country, and world forever.

Worship, Education and Stewardship from September 2017

Worship Attendance

Aug. 27	113	124
Sept. 3	115	134
Sept. 10	152 + 5 = 157	196 + 8 = 204
Sept. 17	117 + 15 = 132	130 + 13 = 143
Sept. 24	121 + 5 = 127	

Stewardship

Aug. 27	\$3346.90
Sept. 3	\$4893.15
Sept. 10	\$3122.75 (\$200 OCC)
Sept. 17	\$5181.10 (\$100 Missions)
Sept. 24	\$4570.61 (\$100 Building Fund)

Education

Sept. 10	50	\$78.00
Sept. 17	36	\$63.95
Sept. 24	45	\$56.76

**Sunday School Offering
for Sept - Nov. is
designated for Operation
Christmas Child.**

**Congregational Mission
Offering
for October is for
Lutheran Family &
Social Services plus our
monthly
support to Lindsey.**

YOU CAN HELP ~ HURRICANE RELIEF

Peace Lutheran Church is accepting donations for Hurricane relief and recovery funds through the Lutheran Disaster Assistance Fund (LDA). The LDA was established by LCMC to responsibly handle the administration of donations in response to natural disasters. We will combine our donations and send the funds directly to LDA in Marion, Iowa. They will then send it on to LCMC congregations in the disaster zone. Make your checks out to "Peace Lutheran Church" and mark them "Hurricane" and we will send them a check ASAP and as long as we continue to receive donations. Over time, needs will shift as the work transitions from relief and clean-up to recovery and rebuilding. Our brothers and sisters in Christ desperately need our prayers and financial support. If you'd like more information on donating items, or relief efforts, please pick up copies of the article shared in the LCMC 3rd quarter publication on the table in the overflow.

Operation Christmas Child 2017



What is Operation Christmas Child?

"Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. This program of Samaritan's Purse provides an opportunity for people of all ages to be involved in a simple, hands-on missions project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas—Jesus Christ."
(From Samaritan's Purse Website)

It's hard to believe it is already time to be thinking about Christmas!!! Operation Christmas Child is a unique project that allows us to reach children all over the world and share the love of Jesus with them. Shoe boxes are filled with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items. Samaritan's Purse prefers we use their boxes so all boxes are uniform in size and there is no extra shipping charge. This is why I no longer purchase the plastic tubs. Then the boxes are shipped off to various children in need. I have received many generous donations and have purchased all of the items needed to pack the boxes. On November 8th from 6:00-7:00 anyone wanting to fill a box can come to the Fellowship Hall and pack away!!!! All of the supplies needed to fill the boxes will be available. Then on November 12th be sure to be at our worship service as we dedicate the shoe boxes. This is a wonderful project and a great opportunity to spread the love of Jesus to children who are in need of joy and hope. If you have any questions please call me anytime and I will try to answer them. It costs \$7.00 per box to ship so monetary donations are always needed and welcome as well!

Thank you so much for helping with this worthwhile project!!! There's no better gift to give at Christmas time than the gift of Jesus' love!

~ Kim Roth, Project Leader, #402 --365-4303



October Worship Schedule...

Worship Services
6:30 PM - Saturday
10:00 AM - Sunday

Sunday School Classes
begin @ 9:00 AM



Unprecedented Love

Whether you understand it or not, God loves you, is present in you, lives in you, dwells in you, calls you, saves you and offers you an understanding and compassion which are like nothing you have ever found in a book or heard in a sermon. —Thomas Merton, *The Hidden Ground of Love*

October 1 - Pentecost 17

Sermon: “Who Says So?” (Matthew 21:23-32)
Peace Choir Sings

October 8 - Pentecost 18

Holy Communion
Sermon: “Look at Everything I Know!” (Philippians 3:4-14)

October 15 - Pentecost 19

Mission Festival Sunday w/Hope Pregnancy Center guest speakers
Peace Choir Sings

October 22 - Pentecost 20

Holy Communion
Sermon: “Let Old Glory Fly!” (Matthew 22:15-22)
Holy Baptism for Markayla Noel Mason on Saturday evening

October 29 - Confirmation/Reformation Sunday

Sermon: “Luther’s Eternal Revelation!” (Jeremiah 31:31-34)
Peace Choir Sings

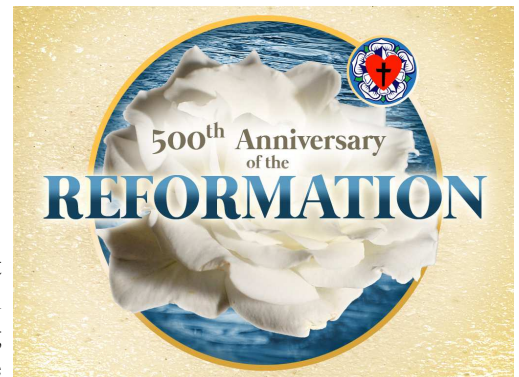
Reformation Milestone: Celebration and Repentance

October 31, 2017, marks the 500th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation, when Martin Luther posted his “95 Theses” on a church door in Germany. This wasn’t an unusual act at the time; Luther was simply welcoming scholarly debate. But his ideas opposing certain teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church led to a monumental shift in Christianity.

Along with other reformers, Luther taught that Scripture is the supreme authority for the believer; that salvation comes by grace alone, through faith alone; and that baptism gives all full access to God in Christ (“the priesthood of all believers”), so there’s no need for an intermediary such as a pope, priest or saint.

Initially, the reformers intended not to leave the Catholic Church but to reform it. But those who protested church practices became known as Protestants, and eventually, multiple denominations arose — Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, Anglicanism and others — and did, in fact, separate from the Roman tradition.

Sadly, woven amid the good intentions to rightly teach and live the faith were sins on all sides: Luther hurled insults “with the best of them”; the pope excommunicated him and had other reformers executed; the beliefs and faith of theological opponents were regularly disparaged. As Heinz Josef Algermissen, a present-day Roman Catholic bishop in Germany, states: “In commemorating the Reformation, we cannot just see it as a jubilee, but should also admit our guilt for past errors and repent on both sides for the past 500 years.”



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Peace Happenings...

Happy October Birthday to...

Special birthday this month is Lucille Hofts who will be 98 on October 1. God's Blessings to all of you 🎵 !!



Oct 1	Lucille Hofts	Oct 10	Maggie Birkel	Oct 24	Chandra Hillman
	Beckett Fangmeyer	Oct 12	David Weber		Matt Hofts
Oct 3	Cody Johnson		Paulette Hynek	Oct 25	Jase Beam
Oct 5	Dan Judy		Bob Duensing	Oct 26	Harlan Schnakenberg
	Rose Johnson		Tyra Schardt		Danessa Buckles
	Kyla Petersen	Oct 15	Leah Dlouhy		Danica Buckles
Oct 6	Juliana Krotz	Oct 16	Paul Meyer	Oct 27	Gary Brettmann
	Avery Ostdiek	Oct 17	Kathleen Marquart	Oct 28	Dylan Jaspersen
Oct 7	Russ Gerberding	Oct 19	Stan Thompson	Oct 29	Jonathan Mohrmann
	Paula Dahl		Zion Reinke		Jeff Fangmeyer
Oct 9	Mike Hoops	Oct 20	Whitney Dahl		Amber Hinderks
	Chrystal Miller	Oct 22	Kenneth Torbeck		Taylor Shaw
	Wendy Fangmeyer		Lindsey Mueller		Janae Beam
Oct 10	Gavin Fangmeyer			Oct 31	Hannah Maschmann

(Special note will be made of these birthday milestones - 75, 80, 85, 90 and over.)

Those celebrating October Anniversaries...

Oct. 2, 1999	Justin & Toni Hintz	Oct. 7, 1978	Glen & Marla Maschmann
Oct. 3, 1970	Keith & Deb Hintz	Oct. 11, 2008	Michelle & Tim Stentz
Oct. 4, 2013	Derek & Makaela Johnson	Oct. 19, 2007	Corey & Andrea Larkins
Oct. 5, 1990	Gary & Denise Brettmann	Oct. 27, 1973	Delmar & Janice Reinke

Congratulations and God's Blessings ...

...to Sena Melsch and Kevin Lowery who were married at Peace Lutheran Church on Saturday, September 16, 2017, with Pastor Rich Stevenson officiating.

...to Hannah Maschmann and Zecheria Deges who were married at The Castle Unicorn, in the bluffs near Plattsmouth, Nebraska on Saturday, September 16, 2017, with Pastor Phillip Nielsen officiating.

...to Amanda Fayle and Jeremy Grant who were married at Peace Lutheran Church on Saturday, September 23, 2017, with Pastor Rich Stevenson officiating.

...Bill and Becky Mize are happy to announce the birth of a granddaughter, Olivia Jean Kasson. Proud parents are Josef and Lauren Kasson of Lincoln. Olivia was born Wed, September 13, weighing 7 lbs, 12 oz and was 19 inches long. Great grandparents are Marvin and Lynn Koester and the late Barbara Koester.

...to Chad and Triniti (Reinke) Herring at the birth of a little girl, Tiana Marie Deseree, at Thayer County Health Services in Hebron on September 14, 2017. Welcoming her home in Reynolds, Nebraska is her big brother, Braedon. Congratulations also to grandparents, John and Amy Flint.

...to Stacey Duensing who has completed her Masters of Divinity from Western Theological Seminary and has been called to serve as the Pastoral Resident of Discipleship at Lynnwood Reformed Church in Gunderland, New York. Stacey will be ordained in Holland, Michigan at Fellowship Reformed Church on September 30th at 3:00 pm.

Receiving Bibles during the Sunday School opening on Sunday, September 11, as a gift from the congregation, were these third graders: Chloe Fangmeyer and Danica O'Neal. Thank you to the Women of Peace for purchasing the Bibles.

Welcome New Disciples in Christ!

Kyra Jenkins and Kevin Lowery were welcomed into the family of Peace this past month.

Peace Women Serving Others...

On Sunday School Rally Day the children filled a school kit bag and the kits were dedicated during worship. Thanks to all who took the time to purchase supplies for the school kits and also for those who helped pack them. We are thankful for your servant hearts. The final number of school kits added up to 122!

Louisa Fintel received \$250.00 in Thrivent Action Team money, which she used to purchase some of the school supplies. *Thank you Thrivent and thank you, Louisa, and all the women of Peace who work so hard for this project!* If you are a Thrivent member, you too may be able to request an Action Team Grant of \$250.00 twice a year for a cause you'd like to support. Inquire in the office for details.



S.S. Rally Day - Children and their School Kits



Assembling Health Kits for Lutheran Family Services



Volunteers assembling the school kit donations

PEACE CARD CORNER...

The Women of Peace have new boxes of cards for sale. Prices are marked on the boxes and you place your money in the envelopes provided and leave it in the church office. If the door is locked just slide it under the door. Cards on the racks are \$.60 each or 3 for \$1.50. *Check them out! ☺~ Ardith Maschmann, WOW Mission Community Coordinator*

Treat and Tie! Monday, October 30 *Food, Fellowship, Devotions, Door Prizes*

The Women of Peace are planning a FUN and FESTIVE blanket tying event on **Monday, October 30, from 4:00 - 9:00 p.m.!** Lois Nelson applied for a Thrivent Action Team Event, so on this night supper will be furnished around 6:00 p.m. Her Action Team gift card will also be used to purchase new fabric for the blankets and recent and current Action Team Funds by Connie Meyer and Earlene Othling were also used to purchase batting for blankets. These purchases make it possible for us to furnish nice quality blankets for Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Family Services and Royal Family Kids Camp throughout the year. *Thank you ladies for your insight and use of Thrivent Action Team Events!*

On the 30th blanket tying will be before and after supper. All ladies are welcome to come and go whenever as we hope to complete a good supply of blankets to have ready for shipment whenever disasters strike or collections are made.

If anyone knows of a small enclosed trailer we could borrow to transport items to the Lutheran World Relief drop off site please let Louisa Fintel know.

Thank you's from Children of the Nations,

One of my P7 pupils (7th grader) wrote a thank you letter for the Study Tour. It's long---and was handwritten. So I typed it up and am sending it to you. Peace Lutheran sponsored this field trip and I want the congregation to know how much it means to our kids. Happy reading!

Lindsey Mueller ~ Education Specialist-Uganda

**Editors Note -we will have a slide presentation during worship on Mission Festival Sunday, October 15, featuring pictures of their field trip that Lindsey sent us.*

Dear Sir/Madam,

I hereby write this letter appreciating those who organized and funded for the P7 Study Tour 2017. I am so happy for the kind of heart you had towards our study tour. Thank you so much for helping us candidates.

I also want to assure you that the money which was used was not just for nothing. We were able to learn very many things in that study tour. We visited very many interesting places such as Nyero Rock Painting in Kumi, Soroti Flying School in Soroti, Port Bell, The Source of the Nile, The Uganda Parliament and the Museum for Uganda.

All these places which I mentioned were all very interesting. In Nyero Rock Painting in Kumi District we saw the evidence to prove that early man knew how to write. They painted some rocks representing some pictures. We went to Nyero One, Nyero Two, and then Nyero Three. In these places we learnt different things. Like in Nyero One we saw some of the caves that the early man are believed to have lived in. We also saw how they painted some rocks which were there. Some of those pictures looked like crocodiles, sun and also a boat. From there, we were led to Nyero Two where we found the rocks painted with the red colour. But in Nyero One, they were painted white. We saw the pictures which were there. We were told that the early man used the liquids from some trees to pain the rocks.

After there, we went to Nyero Three. We saw the rock painted in white. But it was only the picture of the sun. Then they told us that the sun was the god for the early man and that was where they were praying from. The picture of that place is also found in One thousand Uganda Shilling Note. We were also told that people can still go there to pray to that god of theirs up to today. And if they present their problems, it can also be solved. From there, we left now and went straight to the bus and had some food and drinks.

But before we went to Nyero, we had already gone to Soroti Flying School in Soroti. From there we took a lot of photos and also sat in the aeroplane for the first time in life. They also tried to teach us how the plane works. After we went to a weather station where we saw different weather instruments and their uses. Among those were; Barometer, Rain Gauge, Sunshine Records, A Stevenson Screen, an Anemometer, Wind Vane, and many other weather instruments. And then we went to Nyero. By the time we reached Nyero each and every one was too tired including the head teacher who almost fell asleep when we were in Nyero!

After Nyero, we now started our journey again to Jinja while eating and drinking in the bus. We reached Jinja at 9 O'Clock in the night. And we were so tired. Before we reached Jinja, we saw many things on the way such as forests like Mabira, Busitema where we saw some monkeys and the tree species grown in those forests. We slept in a school called Masese Girls in Jinja. In the morning, we started our journey after taking breakfast.

And now we went to the source of the Nile River. We saw Lake Victoria though not all the parts because it is too large. We had a boat ride up to where the water comes from. Then we came back and took lots of photos also. We saw the statue for Mahatma Ghandi. We were shown where the Rippon Falls were and it was where John Speke stood from and saw Lake Victoria as the source of the River Nile. Then now we went back to the bus.

After, we went to Port Bell. On our way to Port Bell, we saw many good roads, buildings, and we also saw Nambole Stadium for the first time. When we reached Port Bell, we were taught what happens there. We saw the water vessels like the Ferry and the boats. That was the most liked place by everyone because they gave enough explanation. And then after Port Bell, we started our journey to Uganda Wildlife Education Center. Before going to Port Bell, we had gone to the Uganda Parliament where we met some MP's (like congressmen in the States) and one advised us to be obedient, hardworking, and respectful. We saw how beautiful the parliament was. Then we left for Port Bell.

And then finally to Uganda Wildlife Education Center. We reached at night hours. And then we were given some food and drinks. We bathed after eating and then we heard a speech from one examiner who works with Tripoma. After we went to sleep. His speech took an hour. We woke up in the morning at 7:00 am and started bathing again. After preparing ourselves, we packed our things in the bus and now we started touring the places where animals are kept. They were so amazing. We got chances of seeing some animals which we used to just hear their names. Animals like lions, zebras, snakes, buffalos, giraffes, monkeys and other birds too. After we took tea and started our journey back home. But before coming back to school, we went to the Uganda Museum.

In the Uganda Museum we learnt and saw a lot of important things, it was amazing. After we took photos and now we were given food and drinks. We started our journey back now to Lira. That time we used the western route. When we were going, we used the Eastern route. We saw Murchison National Game Park and also Karuma Falls though we were not able to see them clearly because it was now dark. We came back to school at 9:15 pm in the night on Wednesday. We had gone on Monday and we took 3 days for our study tour.

All these helps by the goodness of the Lord and your hands that you have joined together to support us. I pray that may the Lord Almighty bless you all abundantly. God be with you.

I want to let you know that the study tour made me to know almost all parts of my country. I am so happy and I think if any of what I have seen comes in the examination, I shall make sure I pass them all. Let me tell you that I personally would not even reach such places I have got chances to reach if not because of your support. I myself promise to bear a good result after doing the PLE. Thank you so much for each and everything you have been doing. May God grant you happiness in your lives and blessings upon you all. I am proud of you all. Because you try as much as you can to make me study well and forget my problems. I do not have anything much to share with you.

I cannot even help appreciating you for whatever you have done. If I remember all those you did, a smile comes onto my face.

May you be rewarded by God the Almighty in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Thanks, Yours Sincerely, Winnie Atwongo



Our Vacation Bible School Offering at Work!!

On Sunday School Rally Day we had a slide show with pictures sent from our missionary, Lindsey Mueller, at her school in Uganda, Africa where she works with Children of the Nations. Lindsey had shared with us in May of this year the need for a urinal for the boys at her school. At VBS time the children decided this would be a good project to strive for. The offering totaled \$845.75 that week, and as a result of the kids reaching their goal of \$500, they had the delight of seeing Pastor Rich get a pie in his face at the VBS picnic. ☺ We were happy to share the delight of seeing this project completed.

From Lindsey:

“So what was built? That building that you’ll see in the pictures today. It has 10 stalls. To Americans this will sound odd, but it’s what we got and what works best with no running water. There’s a drain on the floor. The boys go and do their business there (only number 1...) and it drains out the pipe into a soak pit that was dug near the bathroom. But the stall also doubles as the place where they shower.

Bucket baths are the kind of showers we do here. We don’t have access to running water, only boreholes. So the kids pump a bucket of water, and then use that. So the urinal will be both, urinal and shower.”

What were they were using? *“It’s a little embarrassing, but here’s the truth. We were sharing toilets with the primary school. Our secondary school had nothing.... nada... zip. So over 700 kids were using 8 toilets (which are pit latrines). Not only is that way overcrowded...but you can imagine the smell...*

In a nutshell, now our boys have a decent place for #1 and to shower. It also helps reduce the number of people using the current latrines which will help with the smell. The sanitation of the campus was not so great, and this is the first step to improving it.

It’s done!!!! God is Good! Thank you Peace Lutheran VBS!!!!” ~ Love, Lindsey

Upcoming Events and Schedules...



First Communion Class at Peace

Classes for 5th graders and their parents and *ANYONE* wanting to learn about the sacrament of Holy Communion will be held on **Thursdays, September 28 and October 5, 12, 19 and 26 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.** They will take their first communion on **All Saints Sunday, November 5.**

Christmas Program Schedule...

It's harvest time and that cool crisp feeling of fall, and soon to be winter, is in the air.....some days.....it's Nebraska! But depending where you are, it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! ☺ The decorations are out, the countdowns have begun (www.xmasclock.com) lol, and shopping lists and holiday plans are beginning to form. Peace Lutheran is also making plans now too how to celebrate this most wonderful time of the year, when we rejoice at God's great gift to us. We're grateful again to Connie Eitzmann for volunteering to direct the Children's Christmas Program and for Cindy Mueller who will assist her in every and anyway that her health will allow. *God bless you both!!!!!!*

The Children's Program has been scheduled for the **2nd Sunday in December, December 10**, at the 10:00 a.m. worship service. It's a week earlier than in the past, so this means that rehearsals will begin the 2nd week of November. The first two rehearsals involve just the upper PACE grades 5-8. Then the last two rehearsal will involve grades 1-8. Preschool and Kindergarten - and ALL grades - will practice briefly during the Sunday School hour beginning in November. So it would be so beneficial, for students and directors, if you could make every effort to be at Sunday School and all practices.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE: Wednesday, Nov. 8: 5-8 alternating with PACE (*school has 2:00 dismissal so times have not yet been established*)

Wednesday, Nov. 15: 4:00 & 5:00 PM, 5-8 alternating with PACE

Wednesday, Nov. 22: NO Practice

Wednesday, Nov. 29: 3:45 - 5:45 PM, 1-8 Practice

Wednesday, Dec. 6: 3:45 - 5:45 PM, 1-8 Dress Rehearsal

Sunday, Dec. 10 : 8:45 - 9:45 AM. All Grades Dress Rehearsal

10:00 AM Christmas Program

11:00 AM Traveling Program to PVH w/lite lunch and fellowship following in the Peace Parish Hall



Deshler Lutheran School Dinner & Auction

Saturday, November 18, 2017

Thayer County Activity Center, Deshler

4:30 – 6:15 PM Silent Auction, 6:30 PM Dinner

Live Auction to follow

\$15 per person, \$110 corporate table of 8

Two meat buffet serving a chicken breast and beef brisket

For reservations and more information, contact

Roberta Laaker 402-984-7874

or Juli Reinke 402-364-2549.

Proceeds to purchase laptop computers for the upper grades

Appreciate ~ and Act



October is Pastor (or Clergy) Appreciation Month, reminding church members to thank their hardworking ministry leaders. But the people in the pews — though they might lack official church titles — also play important roles in doing God's work.

In *User Friendly Churches* (Regal Books), researcher George Barna compares the behavior of people in growing vs. stagnant or declining churches. Members of growing churches actively participate in the church's ministry. "They did not divorce their faith from their lifestyle; their faith was their lifestyle," Barna writes. "They took seriously the classical Reformation doctrine of the priesthood of all believers."

By contrast, laypeople in stagnant churches tend to observe rather than participate. "They perceived their role as being in the audience in the stands," Barna notes, "nodding approvingly in efforts to demonstrate religious behavior as the clergy went through their paces."

Appreciate your pastors, but then follow their example by living out your beliefs!



Youth News - by Kristi Duensing, Youth Director

Hello from the Youth of Peace:

Thanks for your support of our Hamburger/Hot Dog meal. It was fun having all of you come through the YOP house to pick up your meal. I hope you had time to look at the posters on the walls in the Youth house. We sure have had many educational, as well as fun, trips through the years. Half of the proceeds from this meal will go to the Texas Hurricane Relief fund, and the other half to our Youth Fund. Our focus in Sunday School will be learning how we can share more.

We will be studying a set of lessons and videos from popular author, Max Lucado, and his daughter, Jenna Lucado Bishop. Why can't we, as Americans, give more? Many people are poor and desperate. Why should we have so much? What can we do, living in this country to help those who are in need? I think it will make us all consider how much "stuff" we have, but yet ponder how we can help those who need it the most.

At the time of writing this newsletter, my buttons are busting, as Stacey will be ordained as a Pastor on September 30, in Holland, MI, where she studied at Western Theological Seminary. It's funny, (now don't get upset with me Stacey for telling kid stories! HA!), but I just have to let you in on this story. As a small girl, she always carried around a cat or two. Once, I saw her pouring water over a poor little kitty. When I asked her what she was doing, she said, Mom, I need to baptize her. Then a little while later, I saw her dressing up two cats with white sheer curtains. Yes, you guessed it, they were getting married! Stacey, congratulations on becoming a Pastor!

Youth activities coming up are: Oct. 4th, Youth Night at the YOP house w/supper. Please bring a friend! On the 13th, we'll be traveling to Lincoln to the Casting Crowns Concert at the Berean Church. I can't wait, they are such a great Christian band, have awesome singers, and ministry stories told between it all. Sunday, Oct. 15th is Activity Night at 7:00 at the YOP house (are you ready for crazy Halloween games?) October 29th is Confirmation Day. Enjoy these beautiful fall days that the good Lord has provided for our pleasure! What a great God we serve! To Him be the glory forever and ever! ---Kristi Duensing, Youth Director