

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH (NALC)

701 West Third Street
Connersville IN 47331
765-825-7692

E-mail: peacelutheran64@gmail.com
Website: www.peacelutheranconnersville.org
Facebook: @peace710



June/ July / August
2020

Our Mission Statement

*Our mission, as the body of Jesus Christ, is to reach
people with the Ministry of His Gospel.*

Rev. Norman Dew, Pastor
Jan Underwood Organist
Bob and Linda Lundy, Custodians

Sunday School for all ages: 9:00 AM

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

If you are unable to reach the Pastor,
Please call on your Council Member...

Christopher Boggs (VP); Ben Buehner;
Doug Cordes; Leroy Lengle;
Sara Vaughn; Sue Bean;
Janet Underwood; Phil Kinder;
and Nancy Weeks



FIRST STEPS IN ADDRESSING RACIAL TENSION

Over the past few weeks, much of the United States has been in turmoil following the sudden and tragic death of George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer who had pledged “to protect and serve” the citizens of that community.

It was an inexcusable and unimaginable event. It was witnessed by a few and has been watched by millions. It was troubling in its cause and tragic in its result. No rationale can cover it. No responsible voice can deny it. No reliable reporting or reasoning can undo what was ultimately done. A life created by God was unwillingly taken, and countless lives, as a result, have been unnecessarily and unduly changed.

As tragic as the event itself was, it was, even more tragically, revealing of something worse. For many of us who live our lives largely unaware of the ongoing realities of racism, it uncovered some of our deepest problems and prejudices as a nation. It brought to light some of the troubles and turmoil we hoped we had dealt with long ago. It unleashed some of those most destructive and deplorable responses to some of the most challenging issues we have ever faced. And the tragedy of the event will continue if the root causes of the event go unaddressed.

This is not a new problem for our world, nor for our nation. When the United States first began, slavery was real and alive. It took a Civil War to face and address it head-on. The civil unrest of the 1960s was closely connected to the racial unrest that was found in people’s lives and hearts. Even more recently, the death of Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia resulted in outrage and protests in cities across the U.S.



FROM THE BISHOP

REV. DR. DAN SELBO
BISHOP

When Billy Graham was asked to identify the greatest social problem facing our nation, his answer was clear and direct: “Our greatest social problem is racism. Not only do we have continuing racism in our own country, but racism is a worldwide problem that has led to countless wars and conflicts. It is also at the root of much of the world’s injustice and poverty.”

It has always fascinated me how the events of this life and the fallen nature of our world serve to remind us of God’s ultimate purpose for us in Jesus.

At the same time as some of our world’s best scientific and medical minds have been working 24-7 to find a vaccine for a global pandemic, in the events surrounding the death of George Floyd, we have been reminded of an even more serious “virus” that needs a cure.

The root cause of every virus is sin. The root cause of every sin is a deep and destructive desire, in each of us, to live life our own way. It was there in the Garden when our world was first formed. It is alive and well in our world today. And it will be with us and among us until Jesus returns and God ultimately has His way.

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

Until then, as the Church, we are called to offer living examples for others to see and to follow, and to offer a life-giving witness that provides real and lasting hope. As a Church, we have what the world does not have. His name is Jesus. We belong to the One the world does not fully know. His name is Christ. We also have been called to live in ways that show the world who this Jesus is and how much we and our world are loved by Him.

Knowing there are no simple answers to the questions we face and that no superficial responses will result in a cure to troubles that go deep, allow me to offer the following as first steps we can all take, as followers of Jesus, to address our nation's racial tension.

Pray. We can never pray too often or too much. Pray for God to intervene. Pray for the family of George Floyd. Pray for the Black community. Pray for our police officers, including the ones directly involved in this tragic event. Pray for our nation's leaders. Pray for race relations to be strengthened, and for all citizens of our world to acknowledge our common citizenship as children of the One God. Pray for those who have peacefully offered protests, in order that their voices be heard. Pray for those who have destroyed and looted properties, asking for justice to lead them to Jesus. Pray for our own hearts to change, and for God, ultimately, to hear our prayers and for our nations and our world to turn our hearts toward Him.

Confess. As much as it is always easier to point to someone else, that is not where the solution starts. It is the first step in any recovery program. It is the most important step in bringing about lasting change. Even if the part we have played is insignificant, even if we believe we have played no part at all, it is essential that we confess that we may have, even without knowing it, played a part, "by what we have done and by what we have left undone." There is a problem. It will not go away on its own. We need help. We need to acknowledge and confess our need.

Listen. This may be the most difficult step to take. It often is for me. It is much easier to speak and to offer counsel than it is to listen to and learn from and

accept counsel when it comes. I will never know what it feels like to be a Black man in this country. I have grown up with a calm and calming atmosphere and life. Before rushing to judgment, we need to listen and to learn and to do our best to "walk a mile" in our brother's or sister's shoes. We can all learn from each other, but only as we listen to what the other has to say.

Speak up. This should come natural for us as Lutheran Christians. Martin Luther spoke up when he saw abuse happening in the name of God. It is not wrong to protest. But do it peacefully. Regardless of where we find ourselves politically, we have a responsibility to speak up when we see things that are not right and to do so in ways that are helpful. We also have the reassurance, when we do, that we are not alone. God speaks through us. God will speak through you. But it will only happen as you speak up for what is right and speak out against what is wrong.

Love. This is at the heart of the Christian faith. This is at the heart of the Christian life. How can we say we love God if we fail to love others? The Bible is clear. We cannot. Love for God goes hand in hand with love for our neighbor. We need to work hard at loving those we see, even if we see in them things we do not love. There are no conditions in God's love for us. There must be no conditions in our love for others.

If we are to be faithful to the call we have in Jesus, as individuals and as a denomination, we must be faithful in our response to others by loving them as God has first loved us. God's love is always and only found in relationships. And relationships, if they are of God, are always and only rooted in love. Let us work to build relationships with each other, with our sisters and brothers of other races and colors, and to ground and root those relationships in Christ.

I invite you to join me in following Jesus, by taking these first and most important steps in addressing our world's racial tension: pray, confess, listen, speak up and love. Until our Lord returns, this is and will always be the calling we share.

In Christ,

Bishop Dan

WORSHIP AS “ESSENTIAL”

Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way which he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. — Hebrews 10:19-25 RSV

It has been interesting to see and hear the supposed outrage exhibited among Christians when politicians and governmental leaders have determined congregational worship — the “gathering together of believers” is “not essential.”

The closing of churches, synagogues and mosques — together with the restricting of gatherings of believers in North America — has certainly raised questions in the United States related to the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and similar questions in Canada, given the Fundamental Freedoms in the Canadian Charter regarding the right of the people to freely exercise their religion.

Although most respected the suggested (and, in some places, required) guidelines regarding gatherings for worship, the issue might well challenge Christians to consider, now, not whether government has the power to determine what about our faith is essential, but whether we, as Christians, consider communal worship as in any way “essential” — absolutely necessary, extremely important, “of the essence.”

It appears that, even in the first century, Christians who had confidence that they could “enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus,” took advantage of the new and living way which the Savior opened for them, developing a habit of “neglecting to meet together” on the Lord’s Day. If they were not saved by obedience to Judaism’s religious legislation, but



MINISTRY MATTERS

REV. DR. DAVID WENDEL
ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP
FOR MINISTRY AND ECUMENISM

by the death and resurrection of Jesus, then it seems, some sensed no need to gather together for worship.

The author of Hebrews is clearly understood here to be speaking of the Sunday assembly for worship, being neglected habitually by some. How quickly Christian “liberty” turned to “license!” And Christians have struggled with that ever since!

In so many ways, Christians fail to understand that Gospel freedom is not so much freedom from having to gather for worship, obey the commandments, live godly and Christ-like lives, as it is freedom *for* obedience, accountability and faithful response.

Because showing up faithfully for worship on Sunday morning doesn’t earn or gain us salvation, many don’t understand the Sunday gathering for Word and Sacrament as essential or necessary. No wonder weekly worship attendance is a small fraction of actual congregational membership! For some time, only 27 to 30 percent of congregational members attended weekly Sunday worship in North America.

Some studies indicate a 10 percent drop in weekly worship annually among most denominations. In other words, even without figuring in weekend work requirements and illness, Sunday worship is not considered essential by Christians in North America.

If Christians are not committed to weekly worship gatherings as essential, is it any wonder that the culture at large considers worship gatherings as non-essential?

Continued on Page 11

Continued from Page 10

If the weekly gathering together of Lutheran believers in worship is not required to earn or merit salvation, in what ways is Sunday worship essential, necessary, extremely important?

1. It is the one place where in community God's gifts and grace are communicated in Word and Sacrament, properly and fully. The Lord says, "where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20 RSV). The Lord Jesus is known to us in the "breaking of bread," and as He unfolds the Scriptures to us (Luke 24).

2. As the Body of Christ is intentionally and essentially the community of believers, it is God's intention, and it is essential that the believers do indeed gather regularly. When members of the Body are disconnected, they necessarily cannot and are not functioning as living members of the Body.

3. Regular, habitual Sunday worship develops relationships — deep, intimate, faithful relationships which are essential to having support and encouragement personally, interpersonally and as

we seek to be disciples together and to make disciples. Disciple-making, at its core, is relational — life-to-life — and gathering together regularly is essential to this important work in the Body of Christ.

4. Gathering for Sunday worship is a public proclamation to the world that we are an interrelated, interconnected community, truly, the Body of Christ. We are to be a real, visible, incarnate body — not virtual or spiritual. The church is to be incarnated — gathering together in the flesh — so that the world may see and know us and our love for one another. When we meet together regularly and faithfully, we manifest to the world how important and essential the Body of Christ is to believers. When we neglect the gathering together of believers, it appears to the surrounding culture that worship together as the Body is unimportant, unnecessary and not essential!

So, as the coronavirus "stay at home" orders expire and communal worship resumes, "let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near" (Hebrews 10:24-25 RSV).

"HOPE FOR THE OLDER ADULT"

Hope for the Older Adult is a short Bible study on issues seniors are currently navigating and how God's Word can bring strength and comfort in the unknown. The Bible study was written by the Rev. Brad Hales, director for aging ministry and congregational renewal for the NALC.

Life has changed greatly during the COVID-19 crisis, but there is one specific group which has borne the brunt of this devastation, and that is older adults. From the onset, the aging were warned to stay in place, since they were more susceptible to the virus. While this mandate was prudent, for many seniors this was a hard pill to swallow — especially for those who are used to going out, doing things and socializing with friends.

The maturation process is a journey to begin with, so the threat of disease and forced quarantine can

cause other issues to surface as there is much time to dwell on the negative. But even during this unprecedented time, the senior can have hope and encouragement in the Lord.

That is what Pastor Hales' *Hope for the Older Adult* Bible study is all about. The effects of aging can be seen physically, mentally and spiritually. But they don't have to define who we are or how others see us.

We cling to God's promises for the aging, and the Lord's guarantee that He will never "leave nor forsake us." Jesus is our enduring Savior. Whatever our age, He has promised us "life, life abundantly" in His name.

The Bible study can be downloaded from the NALC website at thenalc.org/aging-ministry.

For Those Serving During Sunday Service



Since March, I suspended the schedule for those who serve as Altar Servers, Lectors, Communion Assistants, and Altar Guild due to the Stay-at-Home Orders given by the state. Most members did indeed stay at home, but not everybody. There were a few (always under 10 people, often not more than 8) who desired to come to services. If I was going to be here to record or live stream the service from the nave, some asked to be present, and they were. Because of those few people, I was able to do a complete Holy Communion Service rather than simply a Service of the Word which enabled me to provide those who desired the sacrament, but who were staying at home, the opportunity to receive the sacrament individually or in family units from 1:30 - 3:30 PM on Sundays. As an aside, that practice of individual communion from 1:30 - 3:30 PM on Sundays will end June 28, 2020. From March 29th through June 28th,

Mari and I have taken the responsibility of setting up and cleaning up communion after each service for the very few that gathered. With varying numbers of people deciding to be “in-person” for Sunday service since the beginning of June, the question is when to go back to the schedule that was issued just before Advent? There isn’t ever going to be a good time to restart the schedule due to individual comfort levels with public interactions and each one’s needs for health safety during this time of COVID-19. Well we need to start sometime. So in June, lectors were invited back to read the scriptures during the service. Starting in July, we’ll go back to the regular schedule for those serving as Altar Servers, Lectors, Communion Assistants, and Altar Guild. Now should anyone who serves during service in any of those capacities feel uncomfortable with serving while COVID-19 is still a concern in the community, state, and nation, simply find a replacement with someone who is comfortable serving. Everyone who was scheduled to serve during the 2019-2020 church year was given a list of others who serve in similar capacity for the service as yourself. Please find a replacement and notify me, Pastor Norm, via message, text, phone call, note on the office desk at church, etc. as you would normally do. I could see, for instance, where someone who serves as lector and communion assistant, feels more comfortable serving as lector than communion assistant at that particular moment. That doesn’t mean the next time circumstances won’t change. That’s completely understandable. Enter into the schedule when your ready and again, if you’re not ready, simply find a replacement and notify me of the change.

Pastor Norm

Just A Note Regarding Communion

During Stay-at-Home orders, many congregations, including Peace, resorted to recording or live-streaming their services. Shuttered members then watched service virtually on a computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone. Many of the services “broadcast” were a Service of the Word with prayer. There were and are services which encompass the full service of both Word and Sacrament. Peace was one of these. The plan for the future is to continue to have the Divine Service on Sundays streamed. (As an aside, the content of the video will only remain up until late Sunday afternoon of the day the video was recorded and then be taken down.)

Please know that you are not receiving the benefits of the sacrament of Holy Communion, the gifts of God’s strengthening of grace and faith, forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation, by taking bread and wine from your own home and taking it along with congregation members who are present at the service. It doesn’t matter whether the service that one is watching is live or recorded. In other words, if one does such, one is simply eating bread and wine and nothing more. It is similar to if one decided to have a Diet Coke and popcorn while they watch a movie on Netflix or was having a cup of coffee and a piece of peanut butter toast while they attended a morning Zoom meeting. Even though the content of the media your viewing is completely different in the scenarios I just mentioned, the eating at each is no different one from another. To believe otherwise does harm to one’s faith and belief in the Universal Church’s doctrine and teaching of the Incarnation of Christ and The Real Presence of Christ in the Sacraments. I’m am only mentioning this because some of the practice, teaching, and belief of the church, even the Lutheran Church and that of the NALC, during this Pandemic has gone adrift and askew and it’s being done so by the clergy of the church. I need to forewarn you of this as your pastor.



Should you be watching the live stream of Peace's service on Sunday, during the distribution of communion to those who are present, in-person in the nave at Peace, say this prayer: Lord Jesus, you call to yourself all who labor and are heavy-laden, to refresh them and to give rest to their souls. We earnestly desire to experience your love as guests at the heavenly feast you have prepared for your people on earth. As we are not able on this day to be gathered at your Table, may we receive you into our hearts by faith, trusting the word of your promise, that "those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them."* Strengthen our faith, increase our love and hope, and after this life, grant us a place at your heavenly table, where we shall eat of the eternal manna, and drink of the river of your pleasure forevermore. Hear us for your own Name's sake. Amen.

*John 14:23

Pastor Norm



COMMUNITY MEALS BEING SERVED

SUNDAY - JUNE 21st

SUNDAY - JULY 19th

and

SUNDAY - AUGUST 16th

5:00 - 6:00 PM

We will be serving up Walking Tacos with Fritos, taco toppings, fruit cup, bottled water and tea, and dessert on Sunday - June 21st. The July meal will be ham, cheesy potatoes, salad, dessert, and drink. The August meals have not been planned. As always, there is a sign-up sheet located in the narthex at church if you would like to contribute food and or help serve at the church. If you have any questions, please see Nancy Kinder for the June meal, Pastor Norm, or any of the council members, or call the church office at 765-825-7692. If you would like to give a monetary contribution towards the planning of any of these or future meals, make your check payable to Peace Lutheran Church and on the memo line of the check, put the words "Community Meal" and the church office will make sure that it goes to the appropriate fund. You can also make monetary donations using your credit card or bank account by going to the church website at www.peacelutheranconnersville.org and then go to the Tithes and Offerings tab.

Peace Lutheran Church has joined the congregations of First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, and St. Gabriel Roman Catholic Church in providing a community meal to those in need on the third Sunday of every month. Our responsibility will be to provide the meal (ie main dish, sides, and dessert) and 10 members from the congregation to help serve the meal at First Presbyterian from 5:00 - 6:00 PM. We will need volunteers to help make the meals as well as serve the meals. On average the community meals on Sundays serves about 40 - 50 people. Volunteer time commitment for serving on Sundays would be 2.5 hours.

Prayer Concerns:

Sick, Hospitalized, undergoing treatment, etc: Alex Banks; Rev. Cathi Braasch; John Cain; Jade Carpenter; Doug Cordes; Peyton DeLucio; Tom Eckerle; Jennifer Gocoke; Dick Hetiseimer; Jamison Holmlund; Pehry D. Holmlund; Jackie Holtel; Marc Kortier; Andy Lampl; Leroy Lengle; Marion Mathieson; Hollie Nevin; Amy Nichols; Bonnie Ochilfree; Brooklan Phillips; Dave Shurr; Kirk Weeks; Gary Winstead.

Serving as Missionaries: Mark & Lezlee Sanders & Family.

First Responders and Military: Clint Allen; Robert Beeler; Timothy Buehner; Corey Eggers; Bryan Haldeman; Kevin Harris; Simon Hwang; Caleb Jones; A. J. Larracque; Kevin Perry; Michael E. Riedel; Matt Rogers; Cody Rose; Alex Sasher; Michael Spivey; Christopher Tanksley; Jeremy Williams.



Saturday

July 11th and August 8th

7:30 AM

at

Daniel Girls Farmhouse Restaurant

600 North Central Avenue - Connersville, IN

*Please join us for this wonderful time
of prayer & fellowship.*



COFFEE HOUR

Anyone wishing to help with Coffee Fellowship after service on Sunday mornings, please take a few minutes and sign up on the bulletin board out in the narthex of the church.

Thanks so much for helping with this time of fellowship.



Our Love & Sympathy

*To Sara Vaughn and Martha Vaughn on the loss of
their brother and son,*

Dale Vaughn

*To Karen Snider and the Bean Family on the loss
of Karen's brother and Sue's uncle,*

Floyd Reed

Rest eternal, grant them O Lord. And let light perpetual shine upon them!



Book Study and Discussion

Martin Luther's Large Catechism

- Day:** Thursdays
- Date:** On - Going Study
- Time:** 7:00 - 8:30 PM
- Location:** Fellowship Hall at Peace
- Cost:** \$35.00 (if you purchase the book)
Checks payable to "Peace Lutheran Church"
Memo line of check: CONCORDIA
(This book is hardcover and contains all Lutheran Confessional documents including Luther's Large Catechism)

Description: In 2002, Pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback, the evangelical megachurch in Lake Forest, California, wrote a book entitled, "The Purpose Driven Life." The book is a 40 day personal spiritual journey. In the book, Warren presents God's five purposes of human life on earth and presents those purposes as a blueprint for Christian living. The very first sentence of the very first chapter says, "It's not about you" but then it proceeds to talk about how to find personal fulfillment, satisfaction, and purpose in one's life by pursuing a relationship with God. Much of the book is regarding the work we do in seeking that relationship with God. However, the Bible teaches that it is God who comes to us—even when we don't esteem him, when we don't receive him or call upon His name. As the Apostle Paul writes in Romans 5:6 "...God show his love for us in this that while we were yet sinner, Christ died for us."

Are you aware that long before Rick Warren sold over 30 million copies of his book and made famous the pursuit of a purpose driven life, there was already a 16th century book on the market that wasn't focused on me and my finding that purpose? Rather that book emphasized God focusing me upon a purpose which He had already given in Christ. According to that book, "God's will is that all people come to know Him as their father and live under the rule of His Son." That book is Martin Luther's Small and Large Catechisms. Written in 1529-30, the catechism is a witness and testimony of the Christian faith and those fundamental doctrines within scripture that the faithful in Christ should not only know but reflect and meditate upon: "*All Christians should daily exercise themselves in the catechism, which is a short summary and epitome of the entire Holy Scriptures.*" (Preface to the Large Catechism)

The Thursday evening class will be taking up Martin Luther's Large Catechism and the parts contained therein: The Ten Commandments; The Creed; The Lord's Prayer; Holy Baptism; Confession; and Holy Communion. Of course, the Large Catechism was simply an expansion in explanation of those things found in Luther's Small Catechism and was directed at pastors, who like the laity, had become lax in their understanding of Christian doctrine and lax in their own prayer and meditation on God's Word. Luther provided this text of the contents of the Small Catechism so that pastors could preach, teach, and instruct the faithful. The primary translation of the text of the Large Catechism will be from Concordia: The Luther Confession – A Reader's Edition of the Book of Concord. It is not necessary to purchase this text for the study. There are a number of on-line texts that are available for free. A copy of the Large Catechism will be made available to those participating in class free of charge. Those participating in class can come for the whole or parts of the catechism. You may direct specific questions to Pastor Norm at 765-825-7692.



STUDY OF THE HISTORIC CHRISTIAN LITURGY

Ever wonder where the parts of our service come from and why we use them? You are welcome to join the adult Sunday school class in a study of the historic Christian liturgy on Sundays at 9:15 AM in the conference room. Using the Bible and recorded *Issues, Etc.* podcast in a series of interviews with the Rev. William Wheedon, a Lutheran pastor and former Director of Worship and Chaplain of the International Lutheran Center of the

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, we will discuss the answers to those very questions. Upcoming topics include the introit, the kyrie, collects and prayers. *The Issues, Etc.* podcast can be found at <https://issuesetc.org/historic-liturgy-series/>. THIS STUDY RESUMES SUNDAY, JULY 5TH IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM.

Due to busy summer schedules, the following groups will not be meeting during the months of June, July and August:

Martha Quilters

during the months of June and July:

Congregation Council



2020 Church Council Members

The following members of the congregation will serve as council members for 2020:

Leroy Lengle (2nd term - 2023)

Sue Bean (1st term - 2023)

Phil Kinder (1st term - 2023)

Doug Cordes (2nd term - 2021)

Ben Buehner (1st term - 2021)

Nancy Weeks (1st term - 2021)

Christopher Boggs (1st term - 2022)

Janet Underwood (1st term - 2022)

Sara Vaughn (1st term - 2022).



According to Peace's constitution, the council Vice President is elected by the members of the church council and may only serve a two-year term. Chris Boggs is the Vice-president of the council. Please support these council members with your prayers as together we minister in Jesus' name.

On-Line Giving Now Available Through Peace's Website and Mobile App

The council has been working on a way to provide on-line giving opportunities on our website for a little over a year. Some of the time was spent gathering information about all the possible on-line giving programs and their cost. But even in the time it took to gather such information, something always came up that took precedent on the council agenda which tabled giving /donation programs to the next meeting. The last item to take precedent was COVID-19 Pandemic. The pandemic actually moved action on on-line giving to the forefront, especially since none of us knew how long the stay at home orders would last nor how long it would take members of the congregation to feel comfortable enough to come back to church. The criteria for choosing such a electronic giving program were:

- Inexpensive charges for the electronic giving program itself and any annual subscription fee we might have to pay;
- Lowest possible charges by credit card companies and banks;
- Good security protections for the data submitted by users of the electronic giving program;
- Ease of use of reporting for Sue Bean, the financial secretary and Nancy Kinder, the treasurer of the congregation;
- Ease of use to donors on-line;
- A program which allowed the church to custom make where donations could be made. (i.e. General Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, Community Meals, Luther Road, Altar Flowers, Christian Education, etc.)

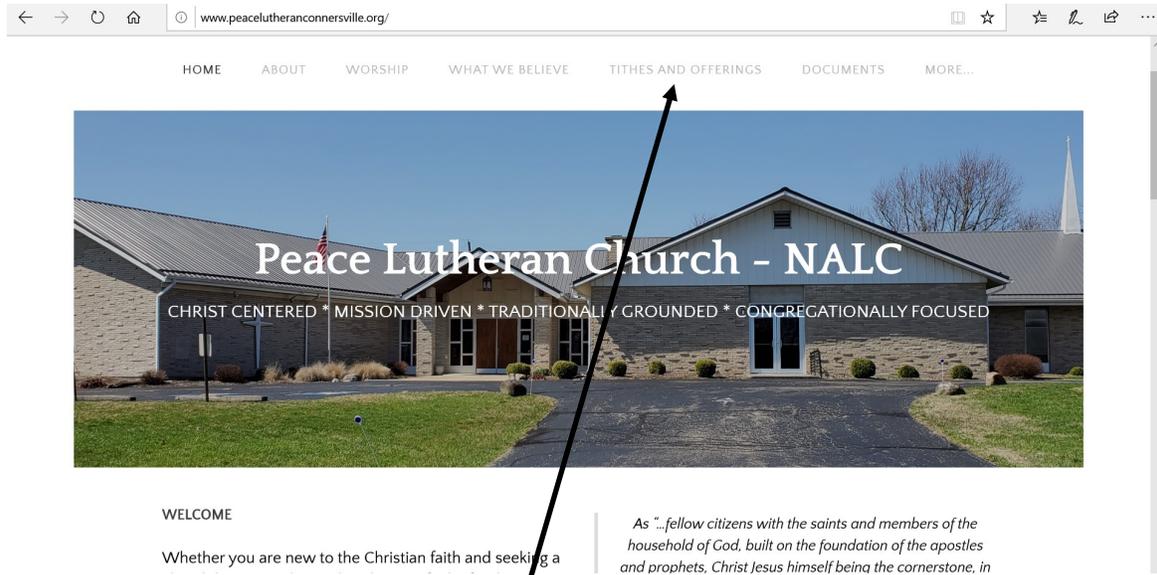
During the pandemic, the council narrowed the search to two electronic giving programs: JubileeGIVE and Vanco Payment Solutions program (GivePlus+ app). We looked at JubileeGIVE first because it was being supported by some ministries of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) of which we are a part. It was also developed by NALC congregants and business/financial folk. The initial cost to purchase the program was \$799 and then a \$30 per month charge for on-going maintenance and security. JubileeGIVE was easy to use but had only one platform, computer website only. Upon further investigation of Vanco Payment Solutions, we discovered that they were the electronic giving program used by Servant Keeper, a church management software program which keeps track of member information, offerings, etc. We have used Servant Keeper at church for about 8 years. Since there were no program costs to use Vanco or the associated GivePlus+ app for smartphone, the monthly service charge including security was low (\$10 per month), it was easy to use for givers, and was compatible with a program we already know and use, the council went with Vanco Payment Solutions. In addition to electronic giving via a computer website, Vanco provides the use of a smartphone app, something which could not be had through JubileeGIVE. (We can always change to another electronic giving program if we have difficulties or high payment increases in the future.)

In setting up the electronic giving program through Vanco Payment Solutions, Pastor Norm, Nancy Kinder, and Sue Bean recommended to council that a separate savings account be secured by the church which was NOT linked to our other three checking/savings accounts so that we could keep track of all electronic giving and payments used as fees for electronic giving. Council concurred. By Holy Week (first week of April), the church had an additional savings account with which all giving, payments, and fees would come in and out. Nancy and/or Sue have to physically or electronically move money into the other church's saving and checking accounts for the money to be used. It does give us a clear perspective on money coming in directly from on-line giving and helps us to clearly see the fees that are being charged. Nancy Kinder, Sue Bean, and Pastor Norm were charged by council with figuring out giving categories for the website (categories we were already using but needed some revision) and entering the basic data into the website. By the second week of Easter (April 19th), the Vanco Payment Solutions page for on-line giving to Peace had been set up and Peace's webpage had been update with a "Tithes and Offerings" tab. Since the end of April and into the first few weeks of May, we have had traffic and donations/offerings received through the on-line giving page.

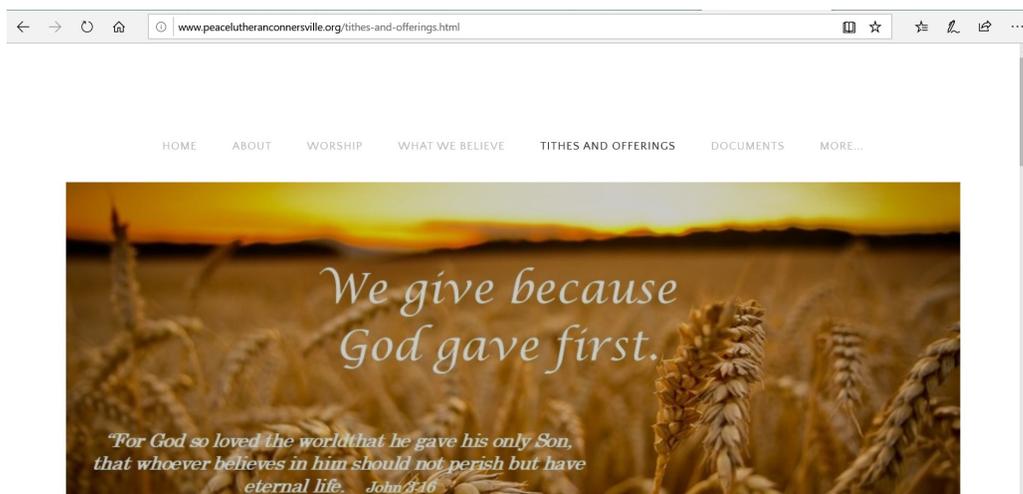
The council does not see electronic giving as the predominant means by which the congregation will receive offering. We expect that most congregation members will choose to present their tithes to the Lord in His house. However, on the odd occasion that one may be out of town on vacation or otherwise unable to attend, there is a way to give one's offering to Peace via the website or smartphone app. If someone, such as a non-member of the church who sends their child or grandchild to Luther Road, wanted to make a monetary contribution, they could do so via the electronic giving aids. Connersville community members who may want to

contribute to the Community Meal Program over at First Presbyterian have a way to do so that may be much easier for them than writing out a check, finding the address, addressing an envelope, and dropping it off in the mail. All those, and some others, are ways in which the electronic giving site or smartphone app could be used. Of course, those who choose not to worship on site for Sunday service due to sickness or personal safety concerns with COVID, now have a way to make their offering without mailing it or dropping it off at church.

So now with all that has been said about the new giving program, how does one access it? Well, you can access electronic giving to the congregation by going to your computer, laptop, or tablet by visiting www.peacelutheranconnersville.org. Our website looks like this:



The tabs across the top of the website page read: Home, About, Worship, etc. If you “click” the tab that reads “Tithes and Offerings”, it will take you to this page:



If you “click” this icon, it will take you to a page that looks like the one on the next page of the newsletter.



PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH is happy to offer online giving options through Vanco Payment Solutions, which allows church members and friends to give monetary gifts online using a checking or savings account or credit card. You can give a one-time gift or set up recurring giving. You also have the ability to choose the fund or funds to which you'd like to give. All you need to do is to CLICK the above "PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH - NALC" button which will take you to another webpage (portal) to the giving page for PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH.

Vanco Payment Solutions also offers mobile apps if you would like to manage your giving on your phone or tablet. Please CLICK the icons for the App Store or Google Play to download the app. The app you are looking for is the "GIVE PLUS+" logo below. If you CLICK on the "GIVE PLUS+" logo below you can watch a short video on how to locate the app.



This is what the page look like when you “click” this button :



PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH - NALC
Connersville, IN

Online Donation [View Mobile Site](#) [Return to our Home Page](#)

Donations

DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING A TITHE OR CONTRIBUTING A MONETARY GIFT

Why should I create a **ONLINE PROFILE**?

In creating an "online profile", you may see your contribution history at any time, print your summary for your records, and change how often you would like to make that gift. (i.e. weekly, bimonthly, quarterly, etc.)

1. Already created a profile? - "Log In" as a Returning Member
2. To make **RECURRING** tithes/gift - Click "Create Profile"
3. To make a **ONE-TIME** tithes/gift and also have the **ABILITY TO TRACK** your tithe/gift history - Click "Create Profile"
4. To make a **ONE-TIME** gift **WITHOUT TRACKING** your gift history - Complete the form below

General Operating Fund

-General Fund: Amount:
Frequency:
Start Date:

Provides for administration, payroll, utilities, and general maintenance

Capital Improvements

Directed toward major capital improvements for building and grounds

-Capital Improvements: Amount:
Frequency:
Start Date:

Witness and Service

Contributions go to local and national charitable organizations.

- Amount:
Frequency:
Start Date:

Witness and Service Other

-Other _____: Amount:
Frequency:
Start Date:

Other ministries or missions you wish to support through the Church

Worship

- Amount:
Frequency:
Start Date:

Christian Education

Includes toddler through adult education, Baptism, First Communion and Catechism

- Amount:
Frequency:
Start Date:

Pastor's Pension Fund

Log In [help](#)

Email Address:
Password:

[Forgot your Email Address or Password?](#)

Create Your Online Profile

This is the Vanco Payment Solutions electronic giving page for Peace Lutheran Church in Connersville and with all the options available for amount of giving, fund categories, and frequency of giving. (Go to next page of the newsletter for more.)

On the bottom of the previous page you looked at, is this button: “Continue”. When you “click” that it takes you to the following page:

This screenshot shows a donation form with the following sections:

- A dropdown menu at the top left with the text "[Choose One]".
- Fields for Amount (0.00), Frequency (Choose One), and Start Date (06/17/20).
- A section titled "Pastor's Pension Fund" with similar fields for Amount (0.00), Frequency (Choose One), and Start Date (06/17/20).
- A section titled "Memorials" with a sub-header "Contributions given in honor or memory of individuals and/or families or special ministries." and fields for Amount (0.00), Frequency (Choose One), and Start Date (06/17/20).
- A "Total:" field showing \$0.00.
- A "Continue" button at the bottom left.

This screenshot shows the "Online Donation" page with the following sections:

- Donation Information:** Fields for First Name (required), Last Name (required), Address 1 (required), Address 2, City (required), State / Zip (required), Phone Number, and Email Address.
- Account Type:** Radio buttons for Credit/Debit Card, Checking, and Savings.
- Payment Method:** Logos for VISA, MasterCard, DISCOVER, and American Express. Fields for Card Number, Card Verification Value (CVV2), Expiration Date, and Name of Cardholder.
- Optional:** Checkboxes for "Give additional 2.75% to help offset the processing fee" and "Use Same Address As Above".
- Billing Address:** Fields for Billing Address 1, Billing Address 2, Billing City, and Billing State / Zip.
- Would you like to save your profile before continuing?** A section with a "Select Password" button and a list of benefits: "Take only a moment—all you have to do is select a password", "Enable you to change or stop a recurring donation at any time", and "Allow you to view and print your online donation history".
- Security:** A checkbox for "I'm not a robot" and a reCAPTCHA logo.
- Note:** "Please review the information you entered carefully. Once you click the Process button your donation will be submitted."
- Donation Summary:** A box titled "General Operating Fund" showing "General Fund 10.00", "06-16-2020 One Time", and "Total One Time Donation: \$10.00". An "Edit" button is below it.
- Return to our Home Page:** A link at the top right.
- Process Key:** A button at the bottom left.

This second page is where you add your personal information and choose the method of payment for your tithe, offering, or donation: either credit card, checking account, or savings account. After filling out the appropriate information, simply “click” the process key to send your gift to the church. If you create your own profile through this page, you will have an ongoing payment history of all your contributions you make

through the church website or via smartphone and tablet. If you decide to use an app for your smartphone or tablet, simply access the Playstore app on your phone and search for the app that looks like this:



Down load this free app to your phone or tablet and you're ready to go. You can seek Peace's giving page by using the search button and typing in Peace's name or using the zip code. If you create an account with an email and password, the app will automatically default to Peace Lutheran Church. Hopefully, this information is helpful but if not, Pastor Norm will be making a video to give a tour of the website and how to make a contribution.

Thanks

With appreciation
and much gratitude.
Thank you for allowing us to use
your facility for the Primary on
Tuesday. It's such a convenient
building, and your hospitality is
greatly appreciated!
Ruth Nutty, Suspector and
the crew from C-2 + C-3

Please forgive my
tardiness in sending this
card of gratitude. All the
ladies and gentlemen who gave
their time selflessly, to
prepare and serve a meal
for our family after the funeral
service of my Paddy, Dale
Vaughn, were so kind.

And thanks to Pastor
Dew as well, for time and
reading of scripture at the
grave side. No words can
express the comfort you gave.

There's no mistaking
the happiness
that comes from knowing
people with such kind
and giving hearts.

Please accept this monet-
ary gift as a donation to
your church bereavement
fund as to pay forward
the same kindness to another
grieving family that was shown
to ours. God Bless you all
in the work of Christ Jesus :-

To the people of Peace

With heartfelt gratitude,
our family thanks you for your

kind thoughts and support. &
prayers (we felt
everyone) & also
the cards meant
so much. Just knowing
you cared.

Sincerely
Martha + Sara Vaughn

Sincerely,
Melera Ash
daughter of Dale
heartline Vaughn
A Hallmark COMPANY

Galatians 6:9 (KJV)

And let us not be weary in
well doing: for in due season we
shall reap, if we faint not.

MARTHA QUILTERS



The “Martha Quilters” of Peace Lutheran Church will display the many quilts they have made this past year on **Sunday, August 9th**. Please take a few minutes to admire the quilts.

The Martha Quilters meet every third Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM (September through May) and they invite anyone to join them. Even if you have never quilted before, the quilters will provide instruction.

The quilters would like to extend their thanks for the many of you who have donated material, quilt batting, money, and time. They are always looking for donations for this labor of love. Currently, the quilts being made are being distributed to the Hope Center here in Connersville. The Hope Center ministers to unwed teen mothers. During the month of August, church members will be asked to bring in baby items (ie bath items, bottles and nipples, baby clothing, furniture, etc.) to church and place them on or near the appropriate table in the narthex. The items may be new or gently used. If you have any questions, please call the church office 825-7692.



STEWARDSHIP REMINDER

During the summer months, all seems quiet around the church as we busy ourselves with much needed rest, outside home repairs, sports, and even a vacation or two. While it may seem quiet here, just the opposite is true. The church building is in use for parties and celebrations (ie graduation, baby shower, anniversary, etc.), the midweek book study continues, committee meetings are taking place, the office is ordering materials for next fall, plans

are being made and schedules produced for confirmation class and first communion, worship services, etc. God’s ministry in and through Christ is still occurring in the community through the members of Peace even while any one of us may be taking a Sunday off to attend to other business. Utilities still need to be paid and upkeep on the building continues. Please remember to give of your time, talent, and treasure while you are vacationing, so the work of the church and the upkeep to the building doesn’t slow down. Thank you.

Assisting During Worship For The Month of...**JUNE**

June 7th 10:30 AM Holy Communion

Accompanist: Janet Underwood
Altar Server: N/A
Altar Care: Norman and Mari Dew
Coffee Hour: N/A
Communion Assistant: Mari Dew
Greeters: N/A
Lector: Gayle Lengle
Nursery: N/A
Usher: N/A

June 14th 10:30 AM Holy Communion

Accompanist: Janet Underwood
Altar Server: N/A
Altar Care: Norman and Mari Dew
Coffee Hour: Open
Communion Assistant: Mari Dew
Greeters: Leroy and Gayle Lengle
Lector: Timothy Buehner
Nursery: N/A
Usher: N/A

June 21st 10:30 AM Holy Communion

Accompanist: Janet Underwood
Altar Server: Hannah Buehner
Altar Care: Norman and Mari Dew
Coffee Hour: N/A
Communion Assistant: Mari Dew
Greeters: N/A
Lector: Sara Vaughn
Nursery: N/A
Usher: Dave Hays and Pehry A. Holmlund

June 28th 10:30 AM Holy Communion

Accompanist: Janet Underwood
Altar Server: N/A
Altar Care: Norman and Mari Dew
Coffee Hour: N/A
Communion Assistant: Mari Dew
Greeters: N/A
Lector: Sophia Kinder
Nursery: N/A
Usher: Dave Hays and Pehry A. Holmlund



Assisting During Worship For The Month of....**JULY**

July 5th 10:30 AM Holy Communion

Accompanist: Janet Underwood
Altar Server: Timothy Buehner
Altar Care: Olivia Bean and Tammy Buehner
Coffee Hour: Open
Communion Assistants: Hannah Buehner and
Jane Sargeant
Greeters: Ben, Hannah, and Timothy Buehner
Lector: Hannah Buehner
Nursery: N/A
Usher: Dave Hays and Pehry A. Holmlund

July 19th 10:30 AM Holy Communion

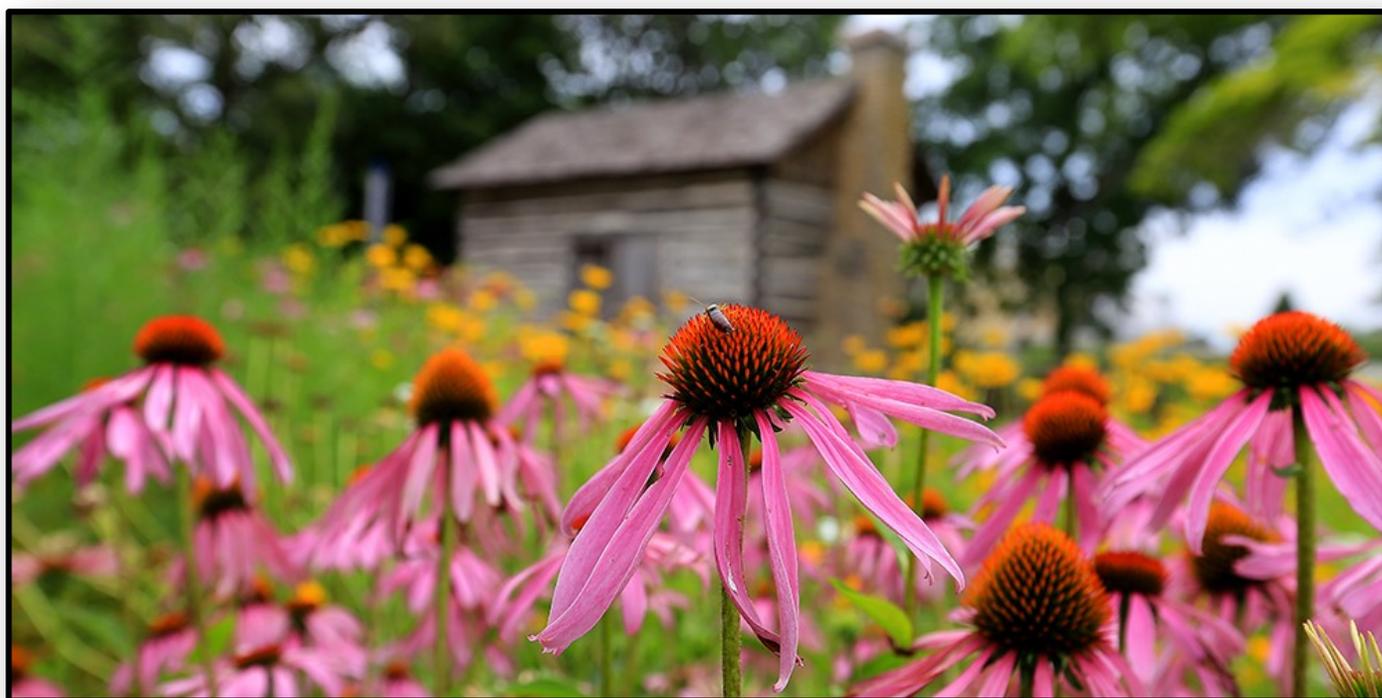
Accompanist: Lilian Hays
Altar Server: Chris Boggs
Altar Care: Olivia Bean and Tammy Buehner
Coffee Hour: Open
Communion Assistants: Tammy Buehner and
Ian Kinder
Greeters: Mari Dew
Lector: Tammy Buehner
Nursery: N/A
Usher: Dave Hays and Pehry A. Holmlund

July 12th 10:30 AM Holy Communion

Accompanist: Janet Underwood
Altar Server: Zach Martin
Altar Care: Olivia Bean and Tammy Buehner
Coffee Hour: Open
Communion Assistants: Nancy Kinder and
Ben Buehner
Greeters: Doug and Paula Cordes
Lector: Nancy Kinder
Nursery: N/A
Usher: Dave Hays and Pehry A. Holmlund

July 26th 10:30 AM Holy Communion

Accompanist: Janet Underwood
Altar Server: Bristol Ruf
Altar Care: Olivia Bean and Tammy Buehner
Coffee Hour: Open
Communion Assistants: Nancy Weeks and
Carolyn Eckerle
Greeters: Carolyn Eckerle
Lector: Nancy Weeks
Nursery: N/A
Usher: Dave Hays and Pehry A. Holmlund



Assisting During Worship For The Month of.... **AUGUST**

August 2nd 10:30 AM Holy Communion

Accompanist: Janet Underwood
Altar Server: Ben Buehner
Altar Care: Phil and Nancy Kinder
Coffee Hour: Open
Communion Assistants: Carolyn Martin and
Phil Kinder
Greeters: Dave and Lil Hays
Lector: Phil Kinder
Nursery: N/A
Usher: Dave Hays and Pehry A. Holmlund

August 16th 10:30 AM Holy Communion

Accompanist: Lilian Hays
Altar Server: Braydon Martin
Altar Care: Phil and Nancy Kinder
Coffee Hour: Open
Communion Assistants: Olivia Bean and
Pehry A. Holmlund
Greeters: Pehry D. and Claudia Holmlund
Lector: Margie Yeager
Nursery: N/A
Usher: Dave Hays and Pehry A. Holmlund

August 30th 10:30 AM Holy Communion

Accompanist: Janet Underwood
Altar Server: Jamison Holmlund
Altar Care: Paula Julian and Jane Sargeant
Coffee Hour: Open
Communion Assistants: Timothy Buehner and
Ben Buehner
Greeters: Ian and Sophia Kinder; Shane Ritter
Lector: Ben Buehner
Nursery: N/A
Usher: Dave Hays and Pehry A. Holmlund

August 9th 10:30 AM Holy Communion

Accompanist: Janet Underwood
Altar Server: Nancy Kinder
Altar Care: Phil and Nancy Kinder
Coffee Hour: Open
Communion Assistants: Chris Boggs and
Mari Dew
Greeters: Pehry A. and Michelle Holmlund
Lector: Mari Dew
Nursery: N/A
Usher: Dave Hays and Pehry A. Holmlund

August 23rd 10:30 AM Holy Communion

Accompanist: Janet Underwood
Altar Server: Jacob Martin
Altar Care: Phil and Nancy Kinder
Coffee Hour: Open
Communion Assistants: Gayle Lengle and
Jane Sargeant
Greeters: Phil and Nancy Kinder
Lector: Jane Sargeant
Nursery: N/A
Usher: Dave Hays and Pehry A. Holmlund



Happy Birthday !!

JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

1st - Dick Link; 2nd - Richard Tarvin;
5th - Pehry D. Holmlund; Courtney Tarvin;
6th - Linda Lundy; Les Yeager;
12th - Debbie Seasongood
16th - Nancy Kinder; 18th - Dorothy Fleming;
23rd - Michael Bever.

JULY BIRTHDAYS:

3rd - Andrew Yeager, 6th - Pastor Norm,
9th - Sara Cordes, Jan Perry,
10th - Sue Bean, 11th - Megan Sparks,
17th - Janet Underwood,
18th - Jeremy Henry, Leroy Lenge,
20th - Nathan Kinder 22nd - Tom Jergensen,
23rd - Joshua Dew, 27th - Debby Burk.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

1st - Gayle Lenge, 3rd - Kent Sanders, 15th - Tammy Buehner,
30th - Nancy Weeks.

2020 2nd Quarter Offering Statements:



2nd Quarter financial statements will be put into member mailboxes on **Sunday - July 12th**. Those that are not picked up on that Sunday will have them mailed to their homes via United States Postal Service on **Tuesday - July 14th**. If you have any questions regarding your statements or you want to report an error, please call the church office at **765-825-7692** or e-mail your question to **peacelutheran64@gmail.com**.

Happy Anniversary!!



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES:

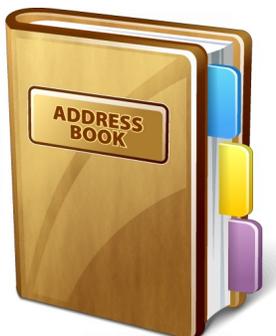
- 10th - Dick & Mary Link
- 22nd - Mark & Denise Bever
- 23rd - Jason & Jamie Jobe
- 24th - Matt & Tracy Buehner
- 27th - Dave & Lil Hays
- 29th - Keith & Sue Bean

JULY ANNIVERSARIES:

- 7th - Pehry A. & Michelle Holmlund,
- 10th - Doug & Paula Cordes,
- 12th - Jim & Jan Perry,
- 16th - Leroy & Gayle Lengle,
- 22nd - Gerald and Judy Seifert
- 30th - Andrew & Lisa Yeager.

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES:

- 8th - Nathan & LeAnna Kinder,
- 9th - Tom & Courtney Ritter,
- 10th - Les & Margie Yeager,
- 11th - John & Debbie Jobe,
- 16th - Phil & Nancy Kinder; Bryan & Stacy Scott,
- 23rd - Pehry & Claudia Holmlund,
- 25th - Pastor Norm & Mari Dew,
- 27th - Dan & Nancy Weeks.



CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

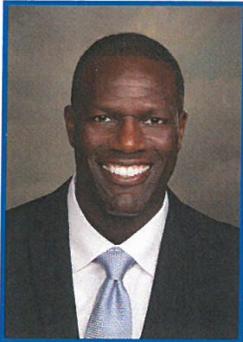
During the month of **August**, there will be a table set up in the narthex which has the current listing of member's address, phone number(s), and email address(es). Please make sure that if there is any change in information regarding these, that you make the changes to the directory pages in the narthex. You may also email the church office at peacelutheran64@gmail.com or call at (765) 825-7692 with your new information. Expect the revised directory to be put in mailboxes sometime during the month of September.



Our Heritage—

*For people who favor rebuilding relationships
and restoring hope for our youth.*

SPRING 2020



Dear Friends and Partners,

Not in our lifetime have we seen such extraordinary measures being taken to fight a pandemic such as the Coronavirus (COVID 19), within the United States. Schools are closed, businesses are drastically impacted, and many of us are being asked to remain in our homes. I join with you in hope and prayer that you and your families are safe and well, and that this will be an abbreviated time with limited impact.

You have been an important part of our work at Wernle, so I wanted to connect with you and share what we are doing in response to the COVID-19. The safety and health of our staff and residents is of the utmost importance. Wernle is working with local, state, and national health agencies on prevention and management in the event of an outbreak on our campus. With this in mind, we have canceled weekly campus outings, home visits, visitations, and external appointments. We have implemented a daily employee screening program, and we are encouraging all our staff and residents to follow the recommended methods from the Center for Disease Control and the Indiana Department of Child Services for reducing the chance of infection.

We recognize that several of you are in tight spots yourselves, due to jobs being suspended or hours being cut back during this unprecedented time. We are asking you to please do what you can to continue to provide support to our youth & families. We are currently providing care for more than 250 young people and their families. Their daily needs must be met, medical and therapeutic care must continue, and of course the basics of running a residential campus need to be considered. We are still providing a comfortable living environment for the youth through basic utilities and food services, but our reserves are limited and without your support what would we do? I truly believe that with our prayers and with all of us pulling together in these difficult times, we will survive this crisis, but we must work together.

While some of our youth may be claiming “cabin fever,” our staff are amazing in keeping them occupied via board games, puzzles, outdoor activities, and approved videos, all with appropriate social distancing of course. Please continue to visit our website for further updates, www.wernle.org, and may peace and health be yours during these challenging times.

Finally, I ask that we all continue in prayer that God will see us safely through these stormy times in the life of our nation and the world.

In Christ,

Darrell R. Gordon, MSA, JD, CFRM
President/CEO



OUR CURRENT
SPONSORS:

FIRST BANK
RICHMOND

Harrington-Hoch
INSURANCE

Your small friend, indeed!
Health Care Logistics
INC.

Jeffrey D. Slyman
Trial Attorney



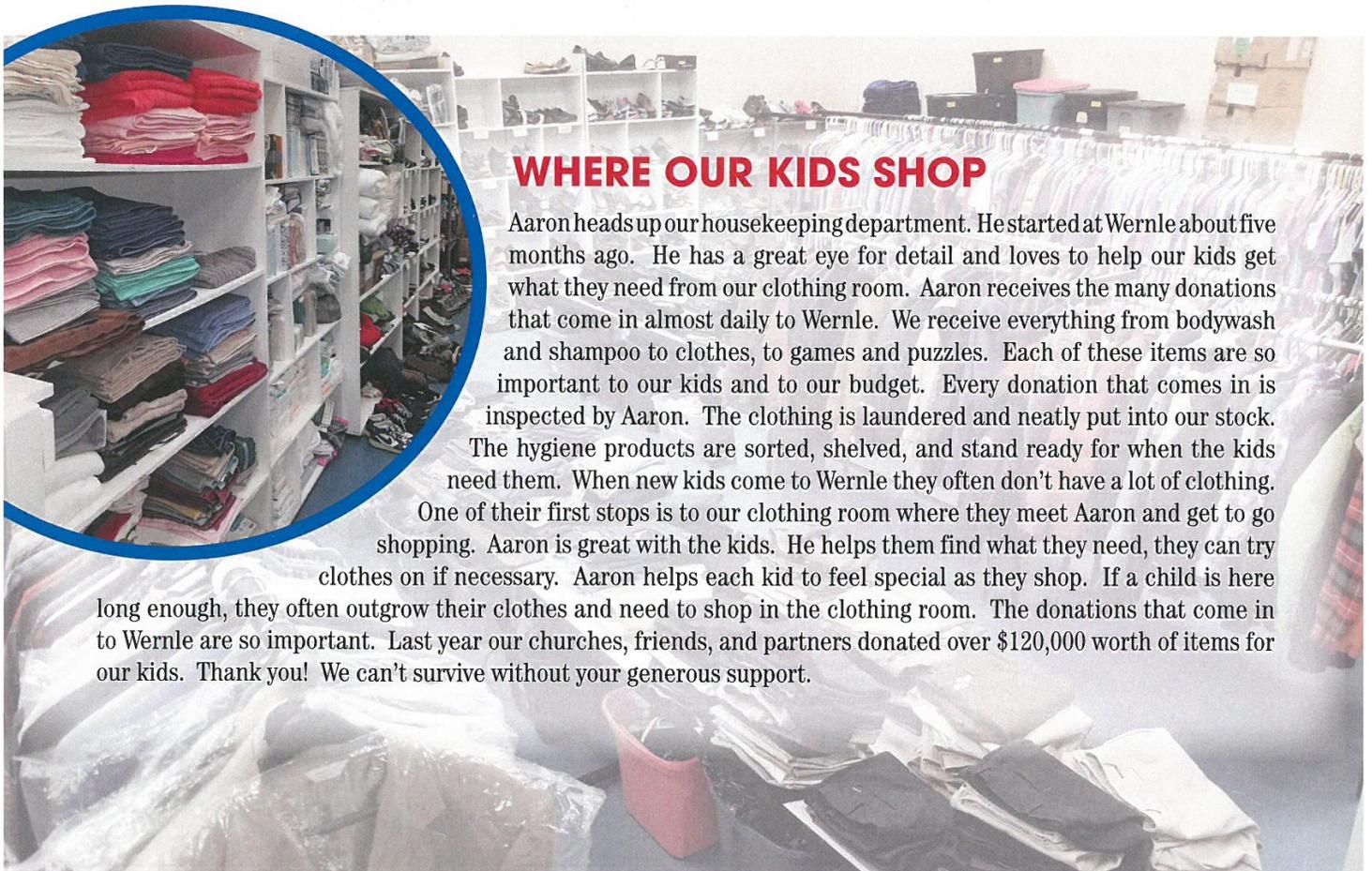
with Celebrity Host:
REGGIE BROOKS

NEW RECREATION/WORK-OUT AREAS



In 2019 Wernle received a grant from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Foundation. This grant was written specifically so we could upgrade, enhance, and add to our recreational items and activities here on our campus. Our Recreation Coordinator, Benjamin Hogan as well as all of our staff were thrilled. Recreation is so important to our youth. It helps us keep them active, learning, and provides distractions from depression and other past traumas. Our Clinical Director Sharon Mibey, and her team, use recreation as a form of therapy as well. And let's not forget, being outside on a beautiful day playing with others is always fun.

We immediately began to devise a plan. This past year we renovated two of our outdoor basketball courts to give our kids somewhere else to play and be proud of. Additionally, we identified the need for a specific area inside that would be focused strictly on recreation. This will be a space for our residents to work out and come together in a fun safe environment. It will include home gyms, exercise bikes, and an area for the kids to watch movies and sporting events. Also, this past year we started "Fun Day." This is an event each week where, with good behavior, kids get to earn snacks and a chance to play video games and watch movies. We've already begun to see results of improved team skills, improved attitudes, and our youth expressing a greater desire to be involved.



WHERE OUR KIDS SHOP

Aaron heads up our housekeeping department. He started at Wernle about five months ago. He has a great eye for detail and loves to help our kids get what they need from our clothing room. Aaron receives the many donations that come in almost daily to Wernle. We receive everything from bodywash and shampoo to clothes, to games and puzzles. Each of these items are so important to our kids and to our budget. Every donation that comes in is inspected by Aaron. The clothing is laundered and neatly put into our stock. The hygiene products are sorted, shelved, and stand ready for when the kids need them. When new kids come to Wernle they often don't have a lot of clothing. One of their first stops is to our clothing room where they meet Aaron and get to go shopping. Aaron is great with the kids. He helps them find what they need, they can try clothes on if necessary. Aaron helps each kid to feel special as they shop. If a child is here long enough, they often outgrow their clothes and need to shop in the clothing room. The donations that come in to Wernle are so important. Last year our churches, friends, and partners donated over \$120,000 worth of items for our kids. Thank you! We can't survive without your generous support.

WERNLE PARTNERSHIP RECAP



Doing great things together

First Bank Richmond is committed to being an integral partner to the communities in which we serve. Since 1887, not only have we provided our community with sound financial products and services, we have also fostered a philanthropic commitment that has made a significant impact through the dedication of our organization's resources, talents and time. This commitment is facilitated through the following channels:

- Financial support pledged through contributions and event sponsorships. In 2019, we proudly donated more than \$400,000 to local not-for-profit organizations.
- Board/employee leadership and participation with local not-for-profit organizations. Last year, 65% of our staff served on a board or a committee and collectively volunteered over 3,000 service hours to local not-for-profit organizations.
- Donations (in-kind) and fundraising efforts to promote local initiatives.

Over the years, First Bank Richmond has been a proud community partner of Wernle Youth & Family Treatment Center. We acknowledge and recognize Wernle's unwavering commitment to providing growth and development opportunities for troubled children and their families by facilitating nurturing programs and healing fractured relationships. Key areas we have participated in over the years to promote advocacy and awareness for Wernle include but are not limited to:

- We pledged \$100,000 over five years for a facilities expansion project.
- We pledged an additional \$150,000 over five years through the Community of Hope initiative.
- We are the annual title sponsor of the Wernle Golf Outing as well as their Catalyst for Change signature event.
- We have collaborated with Wernle CEO/President, Darrell Gordon and his leadership team on strategic planning and events.

We were honored to be recognized and presented the Lifetime Giving and the Catalyst for Change awards for our contributions. First Bank Richmond looks forward to a continued partnership with Wernle Youth & Family Treatment Center to assist in providing essential services that promote a stronger, healthier community in which we share.

You're Invited to our 2020 Spring Gathering

Wernle's Spring Gathering

Date: TBA

We will meet in the Hawk Center

9:00 AM Drop Donations @ Housekeeping

9:30 AM Join us for a light breakfast

10:00 AM Our Presentation Begins



Wernle wants to continue to acknowledge our many 2019 Catalyst4Change Sponsors who made our event so successful:



WERNLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sandie Rowe, Chair
Matt Gilmore, Vice Chair
Frank Eck, Jr., Treasurer
Ed Zumstein, Secretary

Willis Bright	Tom McCabe
Roland Cutter	David McNamee
Bryan Hawk	Jeffrey Slyman
Amy Hoyng	Bob Swanson
Chris Hunt	John Walker
Victoria Lutz	Ron Westerfeld
Charlotte Maley	

Ex Officio
Darrell Gordon, CEO/President

MISSION

Wernle is a family-focused, child-centered agency providing opportunities for the growth and development of troubled children and their families—individually, interpersonally, and socially—through caring programs and healing relationships which are reflective of God's love revealed through Jesus Christ.



2000 WERNLE ROAD
P.O. BOX 1386
RICHMOND, INDIANA 47375-1386

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BLOOMINGTON, IN
PERMIT NO. 267

*****AUTO**ALL FOR AADC 460
PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
701 W 3RD ST
CONNERSVILLE IN 47331-1217

ALLOWANCE FUND

The kids at Wernle receive \$5.00 per week allowance. What they don't spend during outing goes into their own private account. This is a big drain on Wernle's budget, totaling more than \$14,000 annually.

Please consider sponsoring a child's allowance.

1 Month \$20.00
6 Months \$120.00
One Year \$240.00

Please determine how many months you would like to sponsor and note this with your donation.

For questions or more information please contact:

Chris Parker 765-993-4598
cparker@wernle.org

DIRECT YOUR THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS TO WERNLE!



HOW TO DIRECT THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS®

Online

1. Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.
2. In the Direct Choice Dollars section on the right, click "Get started now."
3. Log in by entering your user ID and password. (If you haven't yet registered on Thrivent.com, click "Register for account access.")
4. Find the number of Choice Dollars available to direct.
5. Locate the organization to which you want to direct Choice Dollars:
 - a. To direct to a previous organization:
 - Click "Direct Now" next to the organization's name, or
 - Click on the "View activity history" link, scroll down and click on the name of the desired organization.
 - b. To direct to a new organization, enter keyword(s) like organization name, ZIP code, cause, etc. Click "Search."
6. Choose "Direct All" or enter a specific number and click "Direct Now." Follow the prompts on the confirmation page to direct Choice Dollars.

By phone

1. Call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice."
2. Press 1 to direct Choice Dollars or 2 to hear Thrivent Choice® program Terms and Conditions. (If prompted, say or enter your phone number and date of birth.)
3. A representative will work with you to direct Choice Dollars.

You have the power to recommend where
Thrivent Financial gives back!

The Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program engages Thrivent members and Thrivent Member Networks in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering Thrivent's mission and its purposes under state law. All grant decisions, including grant recipients and amounts, are made at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Directing Choice Dollars® is subject to the program's Terms and Conditions available at Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.



Appleton, Wisconsin • Minneapolis, Minnesota
Thrivent.com • 800-847-4836 • [f](https://www.facebook.com/thrivent) [t](https://www.twitter.com/thrivent) [in](https://www.linkedin.com/company/thrivent)



Search "Wernle"



I H S

Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries, Inc.
 3480 Stellhorn Rd., Fort Wayne, Indiana 46815 260.755.2239 www.lmvfm.org
 "Serving with Christ's Love Those Who Serve"



Spring

2020

Whatever the battle: Assess. Respond. Repeat.

When a crisis first hits, people will immediately and reflexively react in one of three ways: fight, flee, or freeze. However, after their initial reaction, how a person responds becomes a conscious personal choice and it is that conscious choice which defines them. The same holds true for LMVFM.

We had a lot to think about in the days leading up to COVID shelter in place order for all but essential services. With the information we had, we assessed the danger, and responded by purchasing and using enhanced sanitising agents at the office.

Thinking that we would be considered a non-essential service one of our first concerns was how we were going to transition from counselling the veterans we see at the office to having sessions by phone. We do a significant amount of counselling by phone with clients who for geographic reasons can't come to the office. But in reality, in person face-to-face counselling is far more effective. The other concern was how we were going to keep the ministry moving forward working out of our homes.

Less than an hour before the shelter-in-place order came into effect, we found out that LMVFM's direct care mission, classified us as an essential service which has allowed us to continue seeing and assisting our clients. We are grateful for the many unexpected challenges we have faced during the pandemic. By meeting them head on we have discovered new opportunities to serve and increase our ministry outreach to our veterans, contractors and their family members.

We discovered that many of our veterans were at a severe disadvantage when trying to buy groceries once the panic buying ensued that left shelves empty at grocery stores. Our ability to source much needed staple items for our veterans was greatly appreciated.



God continues to provide for LMVFM's every need!



Most recently, He sent us Deb Myers (center), who combines law office management experience with deep respect for veterans in her service as LMVFM's new office manager.



While at home LMVFM volunteers continue to serve.

Blessings to you all, as we continue to find opportunities to serve.

Team LMVFM

From the Executive Director: With Prayers and Thanks

Dear Friends,

During this time of uncertainty, I want to share one of my favourite Scripture verses with you:

**When I am afraid,
I will trust in you,
In God, whose word I praise,
in God, I put my trust;
I shall not be afraid.**

**What can mere man do to me?
Psalm 56:3-4**

As our ministry continues serving our veterans, contractors and their family members, please know that our prayers are with you, too.

Blessings as, together, we continue

*"Serving, With Christ's Love,
Those who Serve."*

Leslie

Chaplain Leslie Haines
Executive Director
Lutheran Military Veterans
and Families Ministries

In This Issue:

P. 2—Pandemic, Suicide and Post-traumatic Stress

 On Principle: Why LMVFM Accepts No Government Funding

P. 3—LMVFM in Action; Mail Call

P. 4—Your Support Needed Now More than Ever

COVID-19: Finding the silver lining

If there is a silver lining to COVID-19, and the almost overnight government mandates to shelter-in-place, practise social distancing and overall restrictions on activities, it's that Americans now have something in common with those who have served in the military.

No matter how much you love your family members, sheltering-in-place has provided Americans with the personal knowledge of what it's like to be around the same person/s almost 24/7. Now just imagine what it's like for soldiers who have no say in who they are going to share a confined space, or in combat zones where they live with the uncertainty of when or if they will be under attack.

We've all experienced the frustration of being fed misinformation, fake news about something that could potentially kill us. It led to fear based knee jerk reactions at every level of our country. Imagine then the frustration soldiers have when missions are not clear, when rumours are all they have to go on. Whatever fears they may have, they are pushed back and they carry on with their mission.

Many Americans now share something else with those who have served in the military which is what it is like to miss birthday of a loved one, have a loved one taken to the hospital and not be allowed to see them, or to lose a loved one, and not be able to attend their funeral.

After more than a month of living with shelter-in-place and no control of when it will end, Americans now have a taste of what everyone who has served in the military knows which is how it feels when you are forced to "Hurry up and wait".

Military and Veteran Suicides

On the 1st of April, one week into the "Shelter-in-Place" order that swept the country the Defense Suicide Prevention Office posted the 2019 Suicide Report. Once again, the report confirmed that suicides in the military were at an all time high. Sadly, by the end of 2019 suicides among Americas veterans had also seen an increase.

Military suicides since 2015

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
266	280	285	324	340

One of the most significant challenges brought on by the order to shelter in place is reaching veterans who are at risk for suicide while they are in forced isolation. To combat the suicide risks for our veterans who are not coming to the office, regardless of their state, we have been making contact with them by phone and also making ourselves available to make home visits. For pastors and congregation members, we recommend calling your veterans and doing porch visits to see how they are doing.



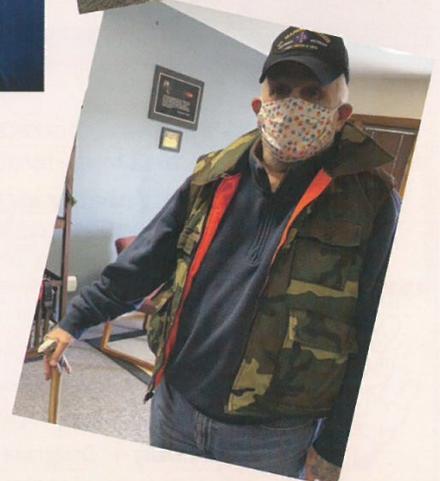
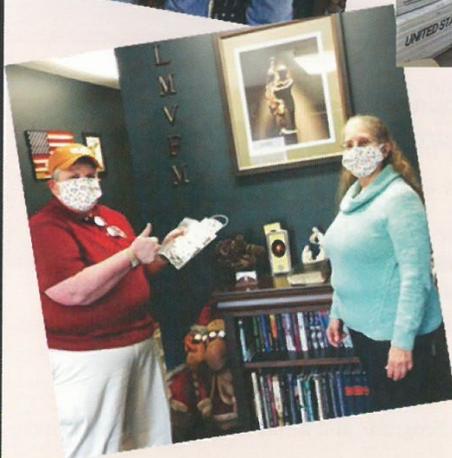
On Principle: Why LMVFM Accepts No Government Funding

As soon as Congress approved funding aid for businesses and non-profit organizations affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic, we at LMVFM started getting inquiries about whether we'd applied for assistance. While we appreciate the inquiries, the answer is 'No.' From its inception in 2008, LMVFM has neither solicited nor accepted any form of government funding. We're committed to keeping Christ at the center of this ministry. Government funding comes with restrictions on the free exercise of religion. So, rather than compromising LMVFM's Christ-centered mission, we remain confident that God will continue to provide for our needs, especially through the generosity of faith-motivated donors like you.

LMVFM-Serving with Christ's Love, Those Who Serve



Clockwise from top right: Addie Myers keeps an eye on the "Paws and Effects" therapy team. Veteran Jake likes his new facemask. It's all hands on deck for newsletter mailing day, including Board members Chaplain Braasch (l.) and Jody Ford. Thumbs up from Chaplain Haines to volunteer JoAnne Fox, for making and donating facemasks that keep our vets and families safe during Pandemic 2020.



MAIL CALL

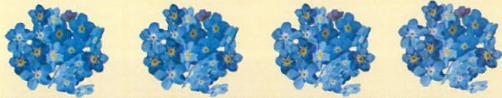
Thanks to LMVFM's encouragement, I'm starting to focus more on the needs of veterans in our congregation and community. What with the Pandemic, restrictions on social gatherings and inability to be in direct contact with veterans and their families, what should I be looking for and how should I respond? — *Pastor IHB*



Dear Pastor,

What a thoughtful, timely question! As a result of their military training and experience, we've seen that many of our veterans bring an "assess and respond" mindset to life in general and emergencies in particular. But, after awhile, vigilance can wear thin and the effects of Post-traumatic Stress (PTS) begin to show.

Watch for signs of depression, heightened anxiety, and uncontrolled anger — three of PTS's main symptoms — in the veterans you serve as Pastor. These can be warning signs that your veteran is thinking of doing harm to self and/or those around him or her. Pay extra attention to their loved ones as well. Keep the VA Suicide Prevention Hotline Number close at hand, 1-800-273-8255. In an emergency, do not hesitate to call 911 and keep the veteran or loved one on the line until help arrives. Don't hesitate to call us at LMVFM if you want to talk further with us about how you'll "assess and respond" to ministry with the veterans in your midst. Thanks again for asking —



Forget-Us-Nots



ON THE FRONT LINES



Today, your gifts to LMVFM matter more than ever as we deal with two disasters:

- ◆ The Global COVID-19 Pandemic; and
- ◆ The ongoing epidemic of US military suicides costing some 20-plus lives every day.

Giving to LMVFM has been affected by the sharp economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic, offsetting much of the gain generated by the year-end 2019 Christmas Ornament Adoption Appeal. This unprecedented crisis has resulted in an economic downturn has affected us all.

In order to keep this ministry Christ-centered, LMVFM never accepts government aid. In other words, your gifts to LMVFM assure that no military veteran, contractor or family member will ever be turned aside from the free clinical and pastoral counselling and related care that they will not get anywhere else.

Please know that your regular, generous gifts to LMVFM are saving lives from spiritual and physical death, 24/7/365.

Why your help matters

LMVFM provides veterans, contractors and their family members with *free* counseling services and assessments, help with VA claims, assistance locating and connecting with other types of resource support.

- ◆ LMVFM does not solicit or accept any government funding or resources.
- ◆ All LMVFM programs and services are free to our clients.
- ◆ LMVFM has never turned a veteran, contractor or family member away for any reason.



- ◆ Oct. 14 — 13th anniversary "Dine to Donate" at Granite City Brewery, Fort Wayne IN
- ◆ Oct. 24 — 2nd Annual "Battle Rattle Run" 5K, St John's Lutheran, Lake Township
- ◆ Nov. 1-Jan. 31 — Annual Christmas Ornament Adoption Appeal
- ◆ Every month — Designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to LMVFM
- ◆ Daily — Designate LMVFM as your organization with Kroger's Rewards Program and Amazon Smile and they'll make a donation to LMVFM for all your eligible purchases.
- ◆ Employer Match — Ask whether your employer will match contributions to LMVFM.



Donating Your Choice Dollars is Easy



There are two ways to Donating your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries.

1. Call 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted say "Thrivent Choice" which will connect you to a friendly Customer Care Agent and tell them that you would like to donate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to: Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries.
2. You can also donate your Choice Dollars by logging into your account at Thrivent.com/Thriventchoice and direct your Choice Dollars to Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries.

Your Donations of these items help us to keep our programs and services free to those we serve. Gift Cards of any amount, unused postage, large and small business envelopes.



amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.

AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases when you select:

Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries as the organization you want to support. Smile Amazon will remember your selection, and then make a donation from all of your eligible purchases made at smile.amazon.com.

Note: Purchases made at the regular Amazon.com site do not qualify. You must use SmileAmazon to have a donation made to: Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries.

June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7P Boy Scouts	2	3	4 6P Boy Scout District Leader Mtg. 7P Large Catechism Study	5	6
7 Day of Pentecost 10:30 A Holy Communion 1:30-3:30 P Individual Communion in the nave	8 7P Boy Scouts	9	10	11 7P Large Catechism Study	12	13
14 10:30 A Holy Communion 1:30-3:30 P Individual Communion in the nave	15 7P Boy Scouts	16	17	18 7P Large Catechism Study	19	20 9A to Noon - Ham Radio
21 10:30 A Holy Communion 4P Community Meal 1:30-3:30 P Individual Communion in the nave	22 7P Boy Scouts	23	24	25 7P Large Catechism Study	26	27
28 10:30 A Holy Communion 1:30-3:30 P Individual Communion in the nave	29 7P Boy Scouts	30				

July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 9A Sunday School 9A Adult SS 10:30 A Hly Communion	6 7P Boy Scouts	7	8	9 6P Boy Scout District Leader Mtg. 7P Large Catechism Study	10 12P Lunch Bunch	11 7:30A Men's Prayer Breakfast 12-6P Buehners - Fellowship hall
12 9A Sunday School 9A Adult SS 10:30 A Hly Communion	13 7P Boy Scouts	14	15	16 7P Large Catechism Study	17	18 9A to Noon - Ham Radio
19 9A Sunday School 9A Adult SS 10:30 A Hly Communion 4P Community Meal	20 7P Boy Scouts	21	22	23 7P Large Catechism Study	24	25
26 9A Sunday School 9A Adult SS 10:30 A Hly Communion	27 7P Boy Scouts	28	29	30 7P Large Catechism Study	31	

August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9A Sunday School 9A Adult SS 10:30 A Hly Communion	3 7P Boy Scouts	4	5	6 6P Boy Scout District Leader Mtg. 7P Large Catechism Study	7	8 7:30A Men's Prayer Breakfast
9 9A Sunday School 9A Adult SS 10:30 A Hly Communion 12P Council Meeting	10 7P Boy Scouts	11	12	13 7P Large Catechism Study	14 12P Lunch Bunch	15 9A to Noon - Ham Radio
16 9A Sunday School 9A Adult SS 10:30 A Hly Communion 4P Community Meal	17 7P Boy Scouts	18	19	20 7P Large Catechism Study	21	22
23 9A Sunday School 9A Adult SS 10:30 A Hly Communion	24 7P Boy Scouts	25	26	27 7P Large Catechism Study	28	29
30 9A Sunday School 9A Adult SS 10:30 A Hly Communion	31 7P Boy Scouts					