

PST Talks

June 2008

The Senior High Youth Newsletter for Peace Lutheran Church

Volume 2, Issue 6

Carl's Ponderings

Dear Friends in Christ,

I love summer! I have fond memories of driving around town as a youth in my 1966 Plymouth Fury III with the windows down (no air conditioning) and the music blaring (on AM radio). Certain songs would come over the radio and, with the music so loud you could feel it, you could emotionally be launched into reliving experiences you connected with a particular song. Music is powerful.

I remember some of the great movie themes of my youth. Even today, and I am a nerd, I get goose bumps when I hear some of the theme music from Star Wars. There is something about hearing the theme song from the first Rocky movie that makes you want to run up steps and pump your fists. The return of Indiana Jones to the big screen this summer also brings back great memories when the theme song comes across in the TV commercials. (dum-da-da-dum, dum-da-dum!) TV and cartoon theme songs do the same thing for people as well as music for commercials. Music is powerful.

Retailers use music to either hurry you through line or keep you mellow and located in their store. Go to Menards some time and count how many times you here the jingle about how much money you are saving while your cart fills up with stuff. Music is powerful.

I always thought it was funny when Dick Clark on American Bandstand would ask some participants their opinion of a new song and they always referred to the beat instead of the text. Even the beat, just like the beat of your heart, keeps you moving. Music is powerful.

Music connected with the Word of God is even more powerful. David sang psalms and played the harp/lyre for King Saul and thus chased away the evil spirit tormenting the King. (1 Samuel 16:14ff) Songs connected to the Word help connect you to the Word. Music, a gift of God, serves the Word by touching your memories and emotions while creating new experiences and insights. Singing hymns and spiritual songs in and outside worship is not just a tradition. Music is powerful and connected to God's Word it is Spirit filled.

You would be amazed at the amount of Scripture that you know because of it's connection to music. The liturgy of the church is Scripture written to music, the hymns and songs of the worship service are usually direct quotations from Scripture or reflections on specific passages. Music powerful.

This summer as you ride around in your car with the radio or CD/MP3 player blaring, hang out with friends with music playing, or spend time alone in your room with a guitar or other instrument, take some time and connect the Word of God with the notes. Listen to or learn some songs that offer a the gift of a greater power, the power of God. "Let the Word of Christ dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Colossians 3:13.

Music is powerful and I pray that power behind some of the music you listen to this summer is empowered by the Word of God rather than the words of a marketing team trying to sell you an ungodly and self-centered culture, french fries, pop, or a new pair of gym shoes. God is really powerful and may His Word in music guide you daily to eternity.

In His service with you,

Carl

Keep Connected

Carl's email

celiason@peacelutherangi.org

Church Youth web pages

www.peacelutherangi.org

Facebook Group

PST

Church Phone

(308) 384-5673 (LORD)

Carl at home

(308) 384-1235

Mobile

(763) 482-2187

Where is it In the Newsletter?

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- Page 6 Personal Bible Study

We are Here to: Relate Disciple Serve Reach Praise

Youth Bible Study on Sunday Mornings

Sunday morning Bible study takes place in youth room. We gather early but really kick it into gear at 9:25 a.m. and finish in time in case youth have commitments with one of the later worship services.



We will finish our series of lessons on "Teens vs. Parents" by the middle of the month and our next series will cover the topic of "Sex and Dating" with sessions on Boundaries, The Role of Dating, Issues for Guys, and Issues for Girls. Overall, we should have some great discussions in light of dating expectations under the light of Scripture and God's plan for you.



Prayer List

- ✝ **Youth guests and visitors** who are thinking about becoming active in PST and the ministry at Peace Lutheran Church.
- ✝ **Inactive youth** who are members of Peace. May they find a connection here and may those who are active find a way to connect with them.
- ✝ **Alyssa Johnson** that **her Dad** might find gainful employment.
- ✝ **Ben White's Grandma** who is recovering from an illness.
- ✝ **Erika Garcia's Uncle Eddy** who was burned in a work accident in Mexico.
- ✝ **Kayla Scholtz** who is recovering from a broken collar bone.
- ✝ **Sam and Hannah Gonnerman's aunt** who has been diagnosed with breast cancer.
- ✝ **Sandy Armstrong**, the principal at Trinity School, she has been dealing with health issues this Fall.
- ✝ **Area youth** dealing with grief and depression. May they find hope through Christ and Christian friends.
- ✝ **Our president, national leaders, and military** as they make wise decisions and face the evils of terrorism here and abroad.

If you have any prayer concerns or joys, please give them to Carl so he can put them in the next newsletter and include them in our prayers in Bible study and other youth meetings.



Did You Know . . . ?



- 🔊 **Dwayne Wall** competed at the Class D State Track meet for Hampton? Dwayne finished 8th in the 100, 17th in the long jump and 4th in the triple jump.
- 🔊 **Jacob Kreutzer** and **Ezarah Williams** competed at the Class D State Track meet for Heartland Lutheran? Jacob finished 15th in the triple jump.
- 🔊 **Morgan Nason, Travis Englund,** and **Jay Hahn** competed at State in track for NWHS? The team finished 2nd and Travis' high jump of 6-6 was good for second place.
- 🔊 **Kurt Bills** competed at State in Class B Golf?
- 🔊 **Matt Wagnitz** won the district golf tournament and competed at State in Class D?
- 🔊 **Ben White** and **Alyssa Johnson** are working at Island Oasis and Ben is driving the train again at Stolley Park? Woo-woo!

If you know something we don't know that we should know let us know so everyone can know. You know? There are many of you in choirs, sports teams, bands, academic events, other extra curricular activities and jobs as well as going through special life events like receiving awards or getting a driver's license. We all want to know and, if you don't tell us, we will ask your MOM!

Youth Led Praise and Worship Concert at Peace, 6:30 p.m. - June 2

A touring youth praise and worship team from Concordia Lutheran Church in Kirkwood, MO, will be sharing their gifts here at Peace on June 2 at 6:30 p.m. The group is called "HiLights" and they are in the 8th year of doing this type of ministry. The group has led worship and praise opportunities at the National Youth Gathering and Missouri Lutheran School events. This is their third summer tour.

The group will arrive at Peace at 3:30 p.m. to set up and do a sound check in the Sanctuary. We will provide their evening meal and host homes for the group (12 males and 9 females including adults).

With the abundance of musical talent among youth



here at Peace, this type of ministry maybe something PST could do in the future. Come it check out, host a couple of youth to stay at your place and praise God!

Youth Board Meeting

The Youth Board will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday evening, June 3, at 6:30 p.m. The agenda for the meeting will be looking at some long range vision planning and additional adult help for events.

Wednesday Night Wind Down

Our weekly Wind Down time together at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday nights has experienced a makeover this Fall as the traditional activities continue and senior youth also have the option to be involved in a visible leadership role with the new Confirmation Ministry format as musicians, skit leaders, and junior guides. Some weeks Wind Down will include Confirmation and some weeks it will not depending upon the monthly schedule. Youth are not required to assist with the first 45 minutes of Confirmation and can still head down to the youth room. The Wind Down schedule for April+ is as follows:

WIND DOWN



- June 4 Wind Down VBS week. VBS will be set up in the gym so we will hang out in the youth room for a board game and movie night. Bring that Apples game you keep wanting to play and Carl is going to pick up the latest National Treasure movie to give mission trip folks a preview of what they won't see at Mt. Rushmore.
- June 11 Wind Down – A large group of regulars will be on the mission trip in South Dakota, including Carl, so the evening activity will be Chuck's Choice!
- June 18 Wind Down – Lots of other stuff to do. We will be in the Youth Room the first hour and then upstairs to the Life Center after 7:30 p.m.
- June 25 Wind Down – Water Wars! The evening will focus out on the grass to the east of the building. Make sure to wear something modest that can get wet! Super soakers encouraged.



Float Trip on the Niobrara River

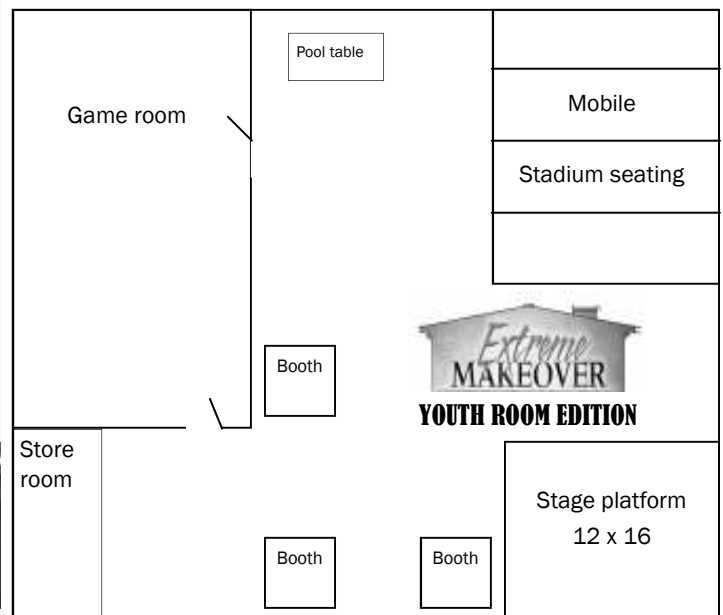
Get your tent aired out and sleeping bag fluffed up, we are going camping and floating on the Niobrara. We will leave from Peace after lunch on Sunday, July 20, camp overnight at Rocky Ford, float down the river on July 21, and return on July 22. You will have the choice of using a canoe, 1 or 2 man kayak, or tube. The kayaks and canoes will start at a different location but probably pass the tubes during the trip. Cost for the trip is \$70 and that includes food, camping fee, float rental, and transportation. **We need a FIRM number of participants by June 4. SIGN UP NOW!!!**



If you do not sign up by June 4 you might not be able to go!!!

Extreme Youth Room Makeover

The lumber is here and it is time to destruct and construct. In case you haven't heard we will be building 8 new moveable platforms to create stadium seating with our couches, tear out the angle wall in the corner, build a stage platform in the same corner, take out the ceiling grids and raise the lighting (to gain head room) and do some painting. We will also put out a plea for some new carpeting once all the painting and construction is completed. The outside wall of the game room will be the site where we will paint logos of all the high schools attended by Peace youth and we will make brick space available for graduating seniors to leave their mark as well.

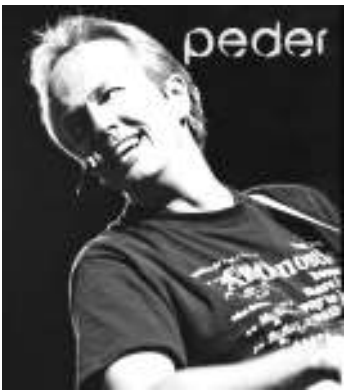


Youth Worship Team—1st Sunday of the Month

The first Sunday of every month is Youth Sunday where our Senior Youth lead in the service as musicians, readers, and greeters. Musicians should connect with Tetsuya Sugita and readers and greeters please contact Chuck Bluschke if you are willing to participate this month on June 2.

Peder Eide Concert—Outreach Opportunity

In February Peace Senior Teens applied for a \$1,000 outreach event grant from Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF). We were notified this month that we were one of 35 ministries in the Nebraska District to receive of the grants! Our grant proposal was to host a Christian music concert and utilize the grant funds to provide FREE tickets to un-churched friends. Other tickets will be sold to Peace members and the public, but a portion of tickets equal to the amount of the grant will be set aside to be given away.



We have since booked Christian music artist Peder Eide to present a concert on August 17. Peder will be at Peace in the morning to share special music during the traditional 8 a.m. service and lead music at the 10:30 a.m. service. He will also visit the youth Bible study class between services. In the evening he will present a full concert at 7 p.m.

The concert will be held at Heartland Lutheran High School as it offers a larger venue than our Life Center or Sanctuary. Youth will be needed sell and give away tickets, promote the event, usher at the event, help set up chairs and sound equipment at Heartland, and help tear down after the concert.

Peder Eide is an outstanding musician and performs regularly for youth events and concerts across the nation. Check him out at www.pedereide.com.

"My goal is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ to students through music, audience participation, and my example. I want to build them up and encourage them in their faith, and let them know that they are loved and valuable. I don't want them to feel just an emotional high, but I want to challenge them to make a commitment that strengthens their faith and gives them the confidence to keep on living a Christ centered life." - peder eide

2008 Summer Mission Trip

On June 8 – June 14, 2008, Peace Senior Teens are heading to one of the most poverty stricken areas of the Great Plains to serve the proud people of the Oglala Lakota Sioux. You will have the opportunity to serve through painting homes and leading a Kids Club for area children while taking in some of the culture and sights of the area. Costs for the trip should come in around \$650 for the trip. All efforts were made to keep costs down.

Those signed up to go are Aleta Loghry, Jay Hahn, Alex Fegley, Alyssa Johnson, Ben White, Aric Blender, Amber Zuehlke, Harvey Langrehr, Jordan Schutte, Jacob Schwan, Kendra Harders, Emily Meyer, Parker Loghry, Maggie Haberman, Maggie Wilhelmy, and Morgan Nason along with adult leaders Joan Schwan, John Haberman and Carl Eliason. The event site is full and no more participants can be added.

Please turn in all medical and covenant forms AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!!

Participants need to have all their gear (1 suitcase, sleeping bag, 1 carry-on/backpack) loaded in the vans by 10:15 a.m. on the morning of June 8. Participants will be commissioned at the VERY BEGINNING of the 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship service and then will head straight out to the vans to leave for Pine Ridge. We will return by 6 p.m. on Saturday, June 14.



District Youth Gathering - Identified

The NE District Youth Gathering will be on November 21-23 in Omaha. The weekend will include speaker Jeff Meinz, the band Room211, and comedy by 321improv. Cost and registration information will be coming your way in June. The theme is Identified. Registration for the event begins in August. There are links on the church website for more information about the event and presenters.



Serving in Technology

The Peace Technology Team is looking for people interested in gathering/updating church website content and people who like to work with the hardware or software end of technology. If you are interested in being involved in this growing area of ministry, please talk to Carl, Tet, or Randy Peterson. Worship Technology (sound and video) is another need—connect with Bob Fusselman or Ken Meyer if this is an area that interests you.

Peace Dance—June 13



The monthly Peace Dance for middle school youth (grades 6-8) starts at 7:30 p.m. and runs until 10:30 p.m. on Friday, June 13. The cost for dancers is \$4. Senior Youth and adult leaders

get in free, of course. If you are available to assist with the dance this month, please let Carl know. A sign up sheet for adults AND youth is posted on the updated bulletin board outside Carl's office.

We are looking at doing new shirts that have your name on the shirt so you always have shirt in the size you want, 'cuz it will be your shirt! Two shirt ideas have been shared with you so you can place your order ASAP.

Vacation Bible School X 2



If you enjoy working with younger kids and having a chance to be wild and crazy for a good cause, sign up to help out with Power Lab, this summer's VBS program from June 2-6. Sherri Probasco, our Director of Children's Ministry, is searching for lab aides to help as small group leaders with preschool and

older groups or help with games. Carl will be leading the music and would like some show choir types anyone else to help out leading all the action songs during the opening and closing programs of the day. The music is great!!!

Peace Lutheran will also be sponsoring a VBS experience at Kingswood Estates, a mobile home park in Grand Island, the week of June 16-20, from 6-8 p.m.. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve in the name of Jesus here in our own community.

Exploring Church Careers Event

Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO, is hosting a special event to introduce high school youth to a variety of church-work vocations. The dates are July 19-22 and July 22-25. Go to www.cls.edu and click on High School Events under the Admissions Tab for more information.

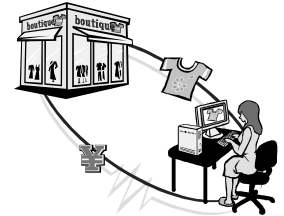
Online Store Supports Peace Senior Teens

PST Has an Online Store

Do you know people who make purchases online? Would they like to be able to support our youth ministry while make purchases at the same sites they already use? You will soon be able to go to:

www.supportpeaceseniorteens.com

our new web store where our youth receive 50% of all proceeds earned from your purchase. Just follow the links to many of your favorite online sites like Dell, KB Toys, iTunes, and more. When you visit make purchases at the sites through our site, our youth ministry gets the credit.



GoodSearch

What if Peace Lutheran's Youth Ministry earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Well, now we can! GoodSearch.com is a search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. You use it just as you would any search engine, and it's powered by Yahoo!, so you get great results. Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter Peace Lutheran Church – Grand Island, NE, as the charity you want to support. Just 500 of us searching four times a day will raise about \$7300 in a year without anyone spending a dime! And, be sure to spread the word to friends and relatives!

You can also make purchase online through GoodSearch to benefit our youth ministry. Many major stores are represented like Target, Best Buy, Walmart, Macy's, Barnes and Noble, Nike, Dell, HP, Kohls, Gap, Nordstroms, Land's End, Oriental Trading, iTunes, Sears, and many, many more. Avoid the crowds and get your shopping done from the comfort of your home while supporting our youth.



Some of the equipment for the youth room makeover was purchased through this process saving us money and earning us money at the same time.

Other Fundraiser Ideas?

If you have a fund raiser idea, share it with Carl or the Youth Board and it will be considered in the total scheme and schedule. New ideas are always welcome!!!

Personal Bible Study Reflections

For any relationship to survive it is important for those involved in the relationship to spend time together. Hopefully, you are already spending time developing your relationship with God through personal devotions. If you need a study aid, please feel free to utilize the schedule and questions on this page. The passages below are the main readings from the previous Sunday school lesson. You are encouraged to read the passage more than once each week and work through the questions, kind of like telling the same stories every time you get together with your friends. May God provide you with a vision of His truth as you spend time in His Word.

June 2-6 read and study "The Wise and Foolish Builders" - Matthew 7:24-29

- 📖 How do you feel when you offer sound advice and it is rejected?
- 📖 Who did Jesus say is wise? (7:24)
- 📖 What sets fools apart from wise people? (7:24, 26)
- 📖 What kind of people did Jesus talk about in contrast to the wise person? (7:26)
- 📖 What individuals are like a man who builds a house on sand? (7:26)
- 📖 Why is it difficult to apply God's truth to our lives?
- 📖 What foundation are you building your life on?
- 📖 What are some sandy foundations you have seen people base their lives on?
- 📖 How do you feel when you see people (friends or family members) ignoring God and making bad decisions?
- 📖 What is the most amazing thing to you about all that Jesus ever said?

June 9-13 read and study "The Calling of Matthew" - Matthew 9:9-

13

- 📖 If you were starting your own business, what qualities would you look for in prospective employees?
- 📖 What past misdeeds would disqualify someone from: your job? elected office? the Supreme Court? the ministry?
- 📖 What kind of people joined Jesus and His new follower for dinner? (9:10)
- 📖 What did the Pharisees think of Jesus' attendance at Matthew's social function? (9:11)
- 📖 What was Jesus' response to the Pharisees? (9:12)
- 📖 What did Jesus tell His listeners they needed to learn? (9:13)
- 📖 What did Jesus say He had come to earth to do? (9:13)
- 📖 How do you think you might react if several gang members or street people attended your church this Sunday?
- 📖 What do you think people would say if you associated with a "wild crowd" in order to be a witness for Christ?
- 📖 What dangers do we face when we befriend non-Christians?
- 📖 What will happen if we never reach out to those outside the church?
- 📖 What individuals need your encouragement and support as they seek to minister to those who don't know Christ?

June 16-20 read and study "The Workers Are Few" - Matthew 9:35-38

- 📖 What missionaries do you know personally?
- 📖 What do you pray about on a regular basis?
- 📖 What emotion did Jesus feel when He saw the crowds of people around Him? (9:36)
- 📖 What helpless animals were the people compared to? (9:36)
- 📖 For whom did Jesus tell His disciples to pray? (9:37)
- 📖 How would you describe the spiritual and moral state of the majority of the people in your town or on your

campus?

- 📖 Who are the non-Christians in your life?
- 📖 What can you do to help people see their need for Christ?
- 📖 What skills, gifts, abilities, or talents can you use to help others come to Christ?
- 📖 What barriers stand in the way of people you know listening to the gospel?

June 23-27 read and study "Jesus Sends Out the Twelve" - Matthew 10:1-42

- 📖 How might a parent feel sending his or her child off to school for the first time?
- 📖 What warnings of danger or hardship did Christ give His disciples? (10:17-23)
- 📖 Why did Jesus predict trouble for the disciples? (10:24-25)
- 📖 What things act as security blankets in your life and keep you from stepping out in faith?
- 📖 How do you react when someone makes jokes about your faith or when people treat you harshly?
- 📖 What do you think it means to lose your life for Christ's sake?
- 📖 In what specific situations do you need to rely more on the Holy Spirit to give you the right words to say?

June 30-July 4 read and study "Jesus and John the Baptist" - Matthew 11:1-19

- 📖 What causes people to second-guess themselves?
- 📖 What message or question did John the Baptist send to Christ from prison? (11:2-3)
- 📖 What instructions did Jesus give to John's messenger? (11:4)
- 📖 What kind of proof did Jesus offer to establish His claim to be the Messiah? (11:5)
- 📖 Based on this passage, how do you think Jesus reacts when we have moments of weakness and doubts about our faith?
- 📖 How do you personally handle doubts when they come?