



# The Messenger

St. Peter Lutheran Church – February 2015

A greeting from Pastor Steve:

February-brrrrrrrrr! Yes winter has arrived.

As we look at our purpose as a congregation from our own constitution and the specific ways that we are called to serve, this is what we find next on the list;

**C4.02 To participate in God's mission, St. Peter Lutheran as part of the Church shall;**

**c. Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all.....How on earth do we do this?**

Really the answer is very simple. On a personal level we do this every day with how we use our time and our money. Each day we are given opportunities to give to others with the expectation that we will receive nothing in return. We do this because of the love that God has for us. The greatest resources that we have to give are what we do with our time and how we manage our money.

We do this together as a church as well. The greatest way we can serve our community and our world is with our time and our money. I've been with you now 4 months as your Interim pastor and I am amazed at what you give – Habitat for Humanity, quilts, health and school kits, serving community meals and breakfasts for kids. This is just what I have seen so far. And when it comes to stretching your money beyond paying the bills - you support the Thrift store, buying farm animals through Lutheran World Relief, giving to the shelter in Lima. And again I know there is a whole lot more.

Why do you do this? Or better yet – who taught you that the best expression of faith in carrying out Christ's Great Commission is much more than what we say. It is also what we do and how we use our money.

Who were your mentors who showed you how important this is and how did they role model this for you? Do you remember them? Can you still see their faces and hear their voices? Do you remember where they sat in church? They lived what they believed and that is why this church is here today.

Your former pastors have helped you with this as well and Pastor Angela did this too. When she talked with me about serving as your Interim she made sure that I knew about the Longest Night Service for those who struggle with grief during the holidays. She has a heart for people who feel broken and who need healing. This worship service in December is provided by our church and because of Pastor Angela we continue this outreach into our community to enable people who feel broken to know the healing power of Jesus Christ. She must have known how important this was for her that she wanted us to pass this on to others.

This is how carrying out the Great Commission works. We simply take what God has freely given to us through Jesus Christ and we pass it on to others. We do this both near and far. We do this with words and everything else that we have.