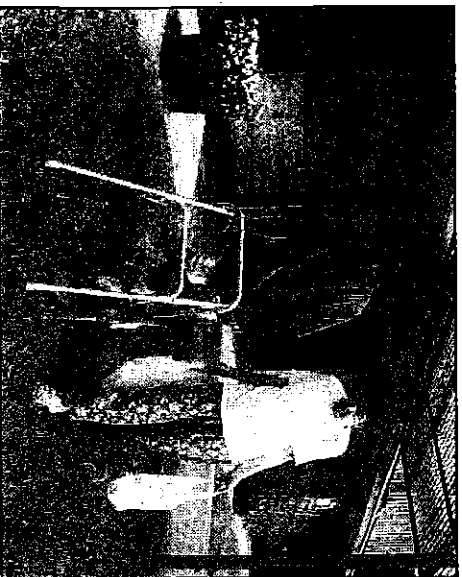


By *Patricia Harris*

Breaking bread and barri



Mission with merit: Walking back to his Columbia Place apartment, James Bailey (left) talks with volunteer Elsie Doeringhaus.

Volunteers serve up more than food for apartment residents

By Jonathan Harris
STAFF WRITER

On the evening of his 84th birthday, Homer Herridon was waiting nervously in his south Dekalb apartment for his party to begin: the first he'd ever had.

"He could hardly eat he was so nervous," remembers Elsie Doeringhaus, who brought him dinner and arranged for birthday visitors last January.

Doeringhaus still visits Herridon and more than 40 others at Columbia Place Apartments off Columbia Drive, bringing companionship and home-cooked food to residents, many of whom have disabilities that limit their movement. Her visits have given residents a sense of community and even helped clean up drugs and crime in the process.

Each Tuesday afternoon for the past five years, Doeringhaus and a group of volunteers from Peace Lutheran Church on Columbia Drive have taken charge of a vacant apartment that management rents to them for a dollar a month.

The apartment was formerly a drug den. Now it's known as the hospitality house, and many residents anticipate 4 p.m. each Tuesday, when Doeringhaus and her staff serve an average of 30 hot meals. They wheel and walk in to chat, play cards or receive copies of recorded sermons from Peace Lutheran Church's pastor.

The weekly event has become a comfortable routine at the south Dekalb complex. At the stroke of four one recent Tuesday, Paul Askew wandered out of the steamy summer afternoon into the fan-cooled room, and took a seat on the couch along the back wall. Askew, 58, suffers from a nerve condition caused by an emotional trauma, and for him, the weekly get-togethers are a welcome social opportunity. He ate the dish of the day, spaghetti with marinara sauce prepared and served by Rainbow Natural Foods cook and Peace Lutheran member Angela Howard.

Askew sees a deeper significance to the gathering and sharing of food. "It's brought a lot of people together. Everybody stayed to themselves before," he said. David Mapp, who now works as a volunteer at the Disability Action Center, has lived at the apartment complex seven years, and has seen the attitude of the residents change dramatically. "At one time it was very drug-infested. Things were a little rough since different people were in and out," he said. "Now everything's at a more peaceful stage."

Few members of the community had jobs, and many spent their days alone in their rooms before Doeringhaus met with the tenants in the newly created hospitality house and encouraged



The cook is in: Peace Lutheran Church volunteers at Columbia Place Apartments.

communication among the residents. Many hardly knew their next-door neighbors at the time.

"There was nowhere for them to gather or talk to each other. Now they're out playing cards and talking," she said.

Residents are involved in volunteer work, raising tomatoes and cucumbers in a new vegetable garden, and one resident, Ulysses Elijah trains as a wheelchair racer and has a job at the Marriott downtown.

The Peace Lutheran group has a small grant from a religious organization to fund the program. Other food for the project is donated by grocery stores, res-

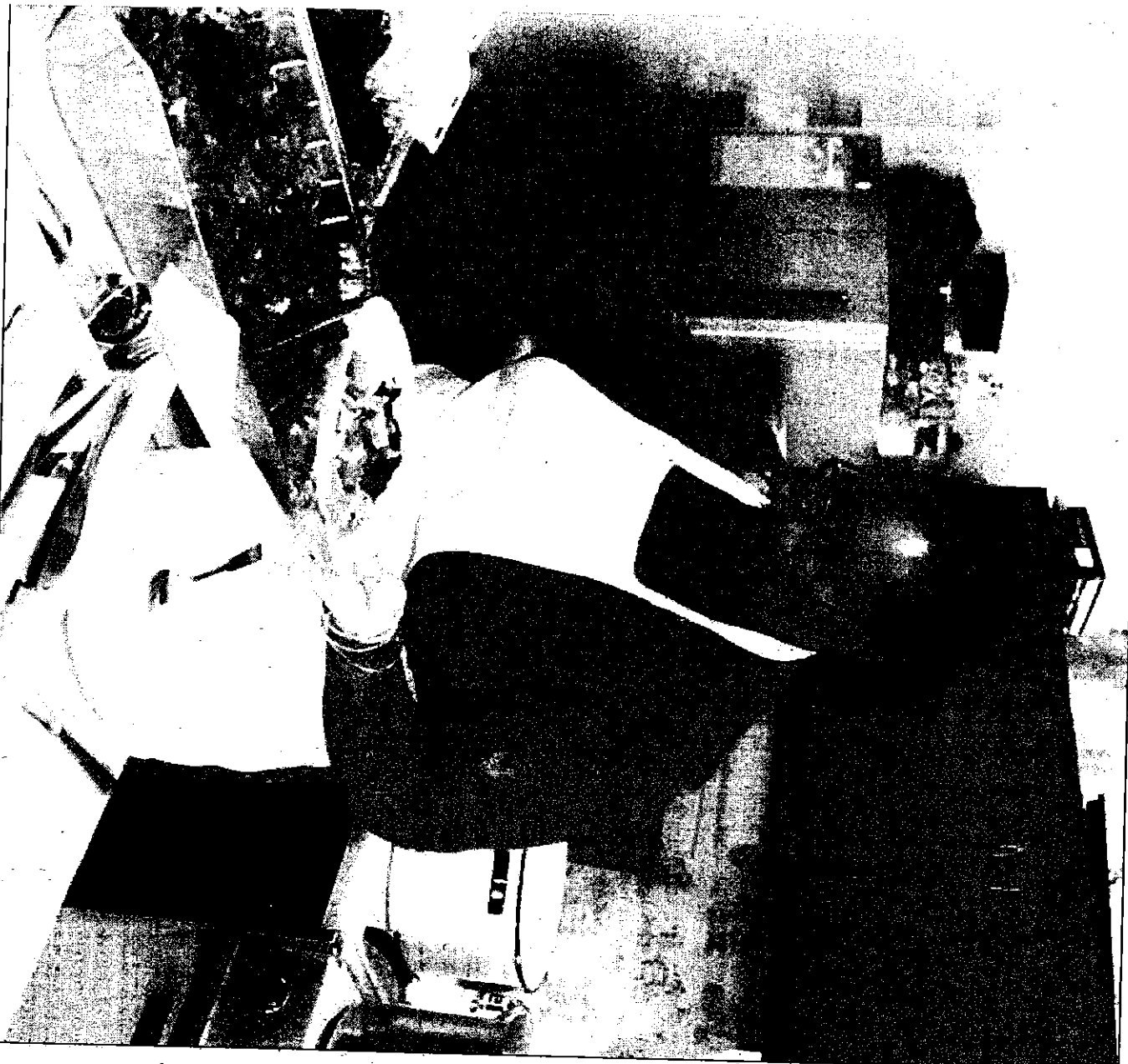
taurants and bus things are really are paid for by D volunteers.

Sometimes the where they'll find to keep the hospital open, but Doeringhaus soon be 75, isn't the future may have. "We know it's a long road, but we'll do it," she said.

For more information, call 40-

barriers to friendship

Chop



Photos by KIMBERLY SMITH / Staff
Can Church volunteer Angela Howard dish up a spaghetti dinner during a weekly visit with residents.

taurants and businesses. When things are really tight, supplies are paid for by Doeringhaus and volunteers.

Sometimes they don't know where they'll find enough funding to keep the hospitality house open, but Doeringhaus, who'll soon be 75, isn't worried by what the future may hold for the community. "We know it will be provided. We don't know how, but it will," she said.

For more information on the program, call 404-289-1474.

"It's brought a lot of people together. Everybody stayed to themselves before. ... Things were a little rough since different people were in and out," he said. "Now everything's at a more peaceful stage."

PAUL ASKEW

Resident, Columbia Place Apartments

LEAD PHOTO

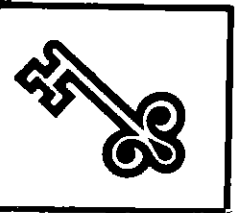
The details

next issue

page 0 Oct 21, 1992

Lutheran

Keynotes On Dekalb



WILLIAM C. BLACK, JR. of Stone Mountain graduated summa cum laude from Georgia State University in Atlanta, August 30. Mr. Black majored in actuary science and is employed by Hewitt Associates in Atlanta. He is married to the former Angela Pitts and has two daughters, Candice and Carrie Ann. He is the son of William C. Black of Sanford, Fla. and Mrs. Dorothy Parker of Lawrenceville.

ROCKY AND SUSAN MORRISON RAMOS of Snellville announce the birth of a daughter, Michelle Maria, on Sept. 16 at Piedmont Hospital. Michelle weighed seven pounds, 13 ounces and was 19 and a half inches long. She has a brother, Nicholas, four. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. James Gray of Spring, Texas, Mr. and Mrs. Cline B. Morrison of Lithonia and Mr. and Mrs. Cookie Ramos of Decatur. Great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John Vandiver of Stone Mountain and Frank Rebon of St. Petersburg, Fla.

PRECEPTOR ALPHA KAPPA Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi met in September in the home of Linda Tweedel for a program from the Decorating Den and at the home of Sue Gilley for one on quilts. The quilts were made by Mrs. Gilley's mother, Ada Johns. The Tweedel home was featured in *The Builder's Architect*. Sandi and Joe Schieber hosted a chili supper at their home.

STAN and KAREN BREON of Havertown, Pa., formerly of Decatur, announce the birth of their son, Bob Stanton Bronson III, on July 23 in Darby, Pa. The baby weighed seven pounds, seven ounces and was 19 and three-quarters inches long. The grandparents are (Ret.) Lt. Col. and Mrs. James Burton of Decatur and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Breon of Baltimore, Md. Great-grandmother is Mrs. Denzel Burton of Tulsa, Okla.

FOUR DAYS in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Tennessee were spent by Mary Brooks, her niece Joan Livezey of Tucker, sister Katherine Livezey, and their friend Macy Cooper Bulloch of Loganville. They stayed in Pigeon Forge and visited Dollywood, Cades Cove, Gatlinburg, and saw two musicals, *Smokey Mountain Jubilee* in Pigeon Forge and *Fire on the Mountain* in Dollywood.

WILLIAM C. BLACK, JR. of Stone Mountain graduated summa cum laude from Georgia State University, Atlanta, Aug. 30. Bill majored in actuary science and is employed by Hewitt Associates. He is married to the former Angela Pitts and has two daughters, Candice Marie, and Carrie Ann. He is the son of W.C. Black, Sr., of Sanford, Fla., and Mrs. Dorothy Parker of Lawrenceville.

WINNERS IN THE Great American Potato Salad Contest, held in Stone Mountain Park in conjunction with the Yellow Daisy Festival, were Jo Ann Meeks, Newman, first; Nancy Spivey, Atlanta, second; Janet Pino, Doraville, third; Joy L. Gross, Norcross, fourth; and Vicki Warnke, Lilburn, fifth.

SARAH GEORGE, a Mary Kay independent beauty consultant from Decatur, has qualified as a team manager and earned the free use of a red Pontiac Grand Am. In this position, she will provide leadership to personal recruits and work with the unit's sales director in meeting sales and recruiting goals.

DORIS MAJORS, a Mary Kay independent beauty consultant from Stone Mountain, has qualified as a team manager and earned the free use of a red Pontiac Grand Am. She will provide leadership to personal recruits and work with the unit's sales director in meeting sales and recruiting goals.

THE REV. VICTOR BELTON of Peace Lutheran Church in Decatur was pastoral delegate, and William Burrus, a member of Peace Lutheran Church, was a lay delegate to the 58th regular convention of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, held in Pittsburgh, Pa. Delegates elected Dr. A.L. Barry as president of the 2.6 million-member Missouri Synod. The United States was identified as a world mission field, and members vowed to step up ministry efforts among ethnic groups and in urban areas.

ANDRE T. YOUNG of Decatur has won a renewable Achievement Scholarship financed by the University of Miami, Coral Gables, Fla. He is a graduate of Southwest Dekalb High School. He will study international business. Andre was an Outstanding Student in the Speech/Reading Department and the Spanish/Foreign Language Department, co-captain of the Debate Team, a member of the Student Council, International Club, Future Business Leaders of America, Academic Quiz Bowl Team captain, was Yearbook photographer, and on the newspaper staff. Announcement of his scholarship was made by the National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students.

JO ANN PATTERSON AND KEN NASH of East Lake Rd. announce the birth of twin sons Trevor Ray and Spencer Kenneth Nash on September 8, 1992.

DR. AND MRS. BILL IRELAND announce the birth of their first child, Mary Virginia, Sept. 4 at Northside Hospital. The grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Bridges of Valdosta and Jane P. Ireland and the late W.J. Ireland of Greenville, Miss. He is the pastor of Briarcliff Baptist Church.

BOB MENDENHALL, manager of the southeastern region of the national chain of Baptist Book Stores, retired Sept. 1 after 34 years with the Baptist Sunday School Board, which owns and operates the stores.

SUE AND DAVID CHARLTON of Doraville have returned from a trip to Bermuda.

AMY SPROLES of Duluth was one of 23 freshmen who received a \$4,000 scholarship to the Georgia Baptist College of their choice. She chose Shorter. Donald Jay Wilder of Norcross chose Truett-McConnell.

MRS. CAROLE GUFFEY had the Decatur First Baptist WMLU Council meeting at her home on East Lake Rd. She was assisted at the luncheon by Mary Holl.

ROSSELL FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH celebrated its 120 years of ministry Oct. 4 with a homecoming service. An old-fashioned covered dish dinner and an afternoon music program were held. Dr. Jerry Songer is pastor.

SEMPINALISTS in the National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students include Eugene J. Bowen and Antoine N. Trainor, Cross Keys High School; Lambda P. Mezeane, The Marxist School; Leslie J. Abrams and Yuguang C. Mitchell, Avondale High School; Stacey D. Lightfoot, Chamblee High School; Denise M. Carr, Tariq S. Hassan, James P. Mason and La Juanda Ross, Columbia High School; Charles R. Washington, Decatur High School; Shakira A. Freckleton, Tara F. Hunter and Natasha R. Lee, Lithonia High School; Rois M. Beal, Anatavia M. Brown, Andrew-Dale A. Foster, Lincoln O. Harris, Sidney E. Rabsatt, and Kevin J. Williams, Redan High School; Kevin L. Bryan, Stone Mountain High School; Richard D. Robinson, Tucker High School.

Women Business Owners Meeting

Kathy Doherty, vice president of Ketchum Public Relations World-wide, will be the speaker at the luncheon meeting of Women Business Owners of Atlanta, Oct. 29 at 11:30 a.m., at 103 West Peachtree St. NE. Lunch is \$20. Reservations are required. Phone 399-9350.

CELEBRATE DEKALB 175! ✓

Contact: REV. VICTOR J. BELTON

Church: PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Address: 1679 COLUMBIA DRIVE

DECATUR, GA. 30032

Phone: area code and # 404.289-1474 Fax: _____

Date of Founding of this church: 1955

Always in DeKalb: YES

If possible would you provide a listing of the ministers, pastors, priests or appropriate leaders during the church's history.

Any other interesting historical background:

FIRST SERVICE: OCT. 2, 1955

1955-1959 - REV. LLOYD E. GROENKE

1959-1964 - REV. LARY G. MISNER

1965-1972 - REV. HOWARD J. PATTON

1973-1980 - REV. ROGER P. FROBE

1975-1979 - REV. REX HOSSMANN

1982-1987 - REV. LOUIS ABEL

1988-1989 - REV. GERALD P. COLEMAN

1990 - REV. VICTOR J. BELTON

Return to:

Sue Ellen Owens

Old Courthouse On the Square

Decatur, Georgia 30030

404 373-3076

File
CHURCHES

PEACE LUTHERAN

The Rev. Louis Able Installed At Peace

The Rev. Louis H. Abel was installed Sunday, Feb. 27, as pastor of Peace Lutheran Church, Columbia Drive.

He has served the Peace congregation for the past year as a vicar.

Prior to Pastor Abel's entrance into the seminary he was a teacher and principal at Peace Lutheran School in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He entered Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne in the fall of 1980 and graduated in

March of 1982.

The Rev. Dr. L. Lloyd Behnken of Orlando, Fla., the president of the Florida-Georgia District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, delivered the sermon and served as ordinator.

Pastors from the greater Atlanta area participated in the traditional "laying on of hands."

The Rev. Wyatt Kimberly of Athens was the liturgist.

The installation service



The Rev. Louis H. Abel

was followed by a reception in the church social hall.

Decatur-Dekalb News/Era

March 10, 1983

File CHURCHES - Lutheran - PEACE

Peace Lutheran Slates Installation Service

Peace Lutheran Church will hold an installation service at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11, for their new pastor, the Rev. Roger P. Frobe.

Pastor Frobe, who replaced Pastor Howard Patton, moved here with his wife and daughter from

Alexandria, Ind.

Dr. August Bernthal of Winterhave, Fla., will preach at the service. Other ministers who will take part include Dr. Walter Bartling, Emory University; the Rev. George Fyler, Lithonia; the Rev. Mark Pepoon of Atlanta; and the Rev. Harvey VonHarten of Jonesboro.

Lutheran Church of the Apostles

An ecumenical luncheon will be held at the church on Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 12:30 p.m. Speaker will be the prominent author and lecturer Mrs. Ruth Youngdahl Nelson. Her topic will be "Alert to Our Time." Tickets can be secured by calling the church office between 9-12 a.m. Monday through Friday, 255-8666. Donations are \$1. The folk group "Le Son Sacre" from Marist School, under the direction of Rev. Joseph McLaughlin, will provide music.

The Way when
2/7/93 p. 18

Peace Lutheran Church History October 1955 - October 1995 "God Reigns At Peace!"

The seed was planted for Peace Lutheran Church in a voters meeting at Grace Lutheran Church, Atlanta, GA on March 13, 1955. Pastor von Spreckelsen, Executive Secretary of the Florida-Georgia District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, came to Decatur, Georgia to survey the area. The Mission Board gave its approval to establish a mission and a call was placed with Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri for a pastoral candidate. Rev. Lloyd E. Groenke was installed in September 1956, as the first pastor. The original name of Gethsemane Lutheran Church was changed to Peace Lutheran Church in February, 1956. The property, located at 1679 Columbia Drive, was purchased in August, 1956, and the first formal worship service was held at Knollwood Elementary School, Decatur. There were nineteen charter members, however, the congregation began 1956 with twenty-two communicant and forty baptized members. That first year ended with sixty-five communicant and one hundred thirteen baptized members.

God continued to bless the congregation in 1957 and 1958, and a Kindergarten was established in 1959, in response to the need for a Christian Day School. Under the guidance of Rev. Lary G. Misner, grades 1-5 were added to the school in 1960. The school grew to include grades 6 and 7, and the first 7th grade graduation was held on June 4, 1965. With this Pastor Misner moved into campus ministry in Tucson, Arizona and Peace called Pastor Howard J. Patton to shepherd the flock.

As the community of Peace began to grow, it became necessary to expand the sanctuary. A new parsonage was acquired on Longshore Drive, and the old parsonage located on Columbia Drive was used as additional classroom space. By June 1967 a new sanctuary, our current worship space, had been planned and a Groundbreaking Service was held.

The first service to be held in the new sanctuary was a memorial service for Dr. S. L. Doerpinghaus which took place on January 22, 1968. In July 1970 another building program was begun and is presently our Fellowship Hall and Education Wing was constructed.

In 1973 Peace called the Reverend Roger P. Frobe as pastor and in 1975 Assistant Pastor Rex Hussmann was added to the staff.

The seventies were rather turbulent years for Peace because the neighborhood became increasingly African American in population. Some people moved their membership while others decided to stay and be the church in the neighborhood regardless of demographics. One excellent decision made in this time frame, was to retire the debt on the building so the church which was forming would be debt free.

Peace remained a significant force in the community through the transition of the neighborhood, through the day school, and community groups such as Columbia Crossways. It stood to provide quality Christian education and demand justice and equity for all in the neighborhood, in Decatur and in DeKalb County, Georgia.

Pastor Louis Abel was called as pastor of Peace in 1982 and provided a stable foundation for worship and evangelism. Peace continued to be optimistic about the future and supported the church in local, District, and Synod through sacrificial giving of tithes and offerings. The school at this time averaged 100 children, a testimony to the need in the community. Studies conducted in the early eighties found students scoring well above average in nationally standardized tests.

In 1988 Peace called Pastor Gerald P. Coleman. This was a distinctive call for Peace as Pastor Coleman is not only a very accomplished musician, but also the first African American pastor to be called by the congregation. Pastor Coleman's stay at Peace was significant in that during his pastorate the old parsonage was destroyed by fire. It was Pastor Coleman's task to guide the congregation through these harrowing times which he did well.

We are also most grateful to God for all of those pastors who served our congregation during its time of pastoral vacancy. Most prominent among our vacancy pastors is the Reverend James Brooks who served Peace with distinction in the late 1980's and early 1990's.

Peace's current pastor, Pastor Victor J. Belton, came in November 1990. During his time with us Peace has undergone a few major renovations in body and in spirit. The old parsonage was removed along with some trees to make room for an upper level parking lot, a kitchen was added to our fellowship hall and new carpet has been added in the sanctuary and fellowship hall. Other improvements have been made as well.

One of the most significant additions for this time has been the adoption of our mission statement:

Encouraging People to serve God and others ***In Love*** and to make disciples ***For Jesus*** through excellent and faithful Spirit filled ministry.

This mission statement is growing to become a guide for all activity around Peace.

Mission and vision go hand in hand at Peace and our Vision Statement reflects how we pray God's reign at Peace will be continually manifest. Our vision is:

The People of Peace pursue R.E.A.L.I.T.Y.

- Relating personally to God and one another

- Exercising the Gifts of the Spirit
- Acting in Faith
- Living the freedom of the Gospel
- Imaging the unity of the body of Christ
- Tasting Kingdom fruit
- Yielding to the Spirit of Servanthood

As we pursue our mission and vision with fervor we are confident of God's continued blessings.

We are most proud of our ministry to the residents of Columbia Place Apartments. Each week a number of Peace members go to Columbia Place, an independent living facility with 48 units of physically challenged and elderly individuals, take a warm and healthy meal, and the time to visit and share the love of God in Christ.

We believe that God has given Peace Lutheran Church a bright future and that this year is a time of going forth into the "good works God has prepared in which we might walk." We thank God for His grace and pray for His continued presence and mercy as we continue to experience how:

God Reigns At Peace!!!

PASTORS OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

"God Reigns At Peace!"

40th Anniversary Remembrance

1955 - 1959	The Reverend Lloyd E. Groenke
1959 - 1964	The Reverend Lary G. Misner
1965 - 1972	The Reverend Howard J. Patten
1973 - 1980	The Reverend Roger P. Frobe
1975 - 1977	The Reverend Rex Hussmann; Asst. Pastor
1982 - 1987	The Reverend Louis Abel
1988 - 1989	The Reverend Gerald P. Coleman
1990 - Current	The Reverend Victor J. Belton