

## **Sample Letters from the Pastor**

My dear family of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish!

How blessed we are to have this directory in our hands! Another way the Lord binds us and connects us together. In any community, what you get out of it is directly related to what you put into it. You will be so much more fulfilled when you move from sitting on the sidelines to getting actively involved in the many activities and life of your church! This Parish Directory, besides listing the names, addresses, and phone numbers (unless they chose not to be included) of all registered members of our parish family, also provides information for all of our ministries, with the hope that involvement in a group dedicated to serve the parish and our wider community will provide a sense of communion and fellowship. This directory is provided to you free of charge, thanks to the generosity of our advertisers. They appreciate your patronage. God has placed each one of us here in this place and time because He has good things He wants to accomplish in our world through our lives together here. We, like St. Andrew the Apostle, as followers of Jesus Christ, express our love for Jesus by participating actively in the life of this parish family, and our wider, local community. Bloom where you are planted! Sink your roots deeply in this faith community, and allow God to bear good fruit through you!

In the loving Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

***Fr. Gregor Gorsic.***

*St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Romeoville, Illinois*

Dear Members of St. Michael,

We live in an age where there are so many ways of communication such as e-mail, text messages, etc., but many of us still prefer the “old fashioned” way of the printed word that we can hold in our hands. This directory is our gift to you to help you feel connected to St. Michael Parish. It can help map your way to information, and names of people that are in charge of various ministries within our parish. Please know that each and every person is very important to us, and that includes YOU!

Love,

***Fr. Dick***

*St. Michael Catholic Church in Louisville, Kentucky*

Dear St. Rita Parishioners,

Welcome to the St. Rita Guide Book & Directory!

Our parish proudly presents this guide book and directory as a resource to every parishioner. This guidebook is a catalogue of ministries describing the many opportunities the parish offers for you to become more active at St. Rita. It is also a tribute to the generous spirit of our parishioners, who make our parish alive and vibrant with faith: who build strong bonds of friendship with each other; and who provide a great variety of services to our parish and to the wider community. We thank all those who share their time and talent to make these ministries possible, and we invite all parishioners to join in these activities. We especially welcome new parishioners, and anyone interested in participating in our parish life.

This new directory also provides the most current contact information of parish staff as well as our parish families. Please feel free to contact myself and my staff with any questions or concerns. We are here to serve you. May God bless our parish family as we join together to grow in love with each other and our Creator.

In Christ,

***Rev. David A. Peck***

*Saint Rita Catholic Church in Rockford, Illinois*

Dear Beth-El Zedek congregant,

Judaism itself is a system of communication with a grammar of shared values, traditions, practices, memories and hopes. “Community” requires “communication”.

This directory serves a practical need. But it is not merely a listing of names and numbers. We hope that it will help you to enhance connections and nurture hospitality and community among the members of our congregational family.

While we come together at 600 West 70<sup>th</sup> Street for prayer, study and celebration, the boundaries of our synagogue extend also to our homes, our neighborhoods and beyond, where we are called upon to perform deeds of loving kindness and tzedakah.

Please use this address and telephone directory to reach out, to extend the bonds of community and the feeling of family that come from being part of Beth-El Zedek.

***-Rabbi Dennis C Sasso & Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso***

*Congregation Beth-El Zedek in Indianapolis, Indiana*

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Our Lord said, “*Where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.*” (Matthew 18:20). We are not alone; we are united with each other and with Jesus. Together, we are the Catholic community in this North County neighborhood. Everyone is welcome to join us as we celebrate the presence of the Risen One!

Our parish is named after Angela Merici, a saint from the 15<sup>th</sup> century. She was a woman who dedicated herself completely to God and helped other young women do the same. Every parish organization from our pre-school to our seniors club, and every parish activity from Sunday Mass to parochial sports are oriented toward devoting ourselves entirely to God and helping others to do the same. This parish has fine traditions of Catholic education, diversity, community involvement, and parish vitality. You are welcome to come find your place in this parish family.

Two things about this directory:

- ❖ First, this book is underwritten by the advertisers found throughout; please show our appreciation by patronizing their businesses.
- ❖ Secondly, as you look for someone’s phone number and address, or as you look for an organization in this book, thank God for the gift of this wonderful parish!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

***Rev. Thomas Keller***

*Saint Angela Merici Parish in Florissant, Missouri*

Dear First Family,

This booklet is a gift to assist us in connecting with one another as family and friends of First United Methodist Church. It is a tool to help us mobilize for ministry, be present to one another in crisis, pass the good news and bad news that unites us in common joy and concern. In the military there is something called the “Recall Roster”, where every member of the unit leaves a clear point of contact in case of emergency. In a sense, this booklet is our recall roster. Consider it a tool for ministry and for service. Respect its contents and those named with appropriate privacy but know as well that each who is listed has declared themselves to be followers of Jesus and part of the family of this church. May the Spirit lead us all into whatever adventures the next year may bring.

In Christ’s Service,

***Pastor Bob Phillips***

*First United Methodist Church in Peoria, Illinois*

Dear Parishioners,

Do you realize what a treasure your faith is? Many people play the lottery and few win. Those who win will tell you having millions of dollars is a real treasure. No one would dispute this. But lottery winners will tell you there comes some big problems with big winnings. One man won the Powerball ten years ago and now blames it for his granddaughter's fatal drug overdose, divorce, hundreds of lawsuits, and no friends. If you say "no" to requests, there are hard feelings. One winner said they rode a roller coaster of feelings, from joy to anxiety, guilt, and distrust. But the treasure of the Gospel, worth more than all the money in the world, gives joy and salvation. If you share it, you are investing it wisely so others might come to believe and be saved. And the great thing is the treasure never is depleted. But best of all, millions have the treasure of eternal life, while only a few will ever have millions from the lottery.

This Guide Book and Directory is a valuable tool for all the members of our church. If you are new to our congregation, you will find information regarding many of our ministries and contact people. Certainly everyone will find this an easy-to-use resource of addresses or telephone numbers of fellow church members. Keep this booklet near your telephone. Please note the e-mail addresses.

Putting together a directory like this for such a large church would be cost-prohibitive if it were not for the generosity of our advertisers. Many of them are parishioners and friends of church members. All of them are supportive of our efforts. I encourage you to consider their businesses whenever the need arises in gratitude for their support.

I also take this opportunity to ask for your continued support, encouragement, and prayers for the whole staff at St. Paul's. Everyone serves their Lord and the body of Christ. Their witness and your witness are tools God uses to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ. Please call on us if we can be of service to you.

In Christ,

***Dr. Eric C. Stumpf***

Senior Pastor

*St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Munster, Indiana*

A Note From Our Interim Pastor...

This is certainly a time of change for Peace Lutheran. One Pastor leaves, an Interim Pastor comes, then, eventually, the Interim Pastor leaves and a new Pastor comes. Lots of change. But this Guidebook represents one thing that does not change.

The children's song says it this way

*"The church is not a building,  
the church is not a steeple,  
the church is not a resting place,  
the church is a people.*

*I am the church*

*You are the church*

*We are the church together."*

This book lists you—the church.

Many of you have deep and long connections to this place.

But more importantly you have deep connections to one another.

In the midst of much change, that does not change.

This book lays that out in list form.

But you also know it in your hearts.

It's an honor to be among you during this time of change.

***-Rev. Mark J. Hendrickson***

*Peace Lutheran Church in Menomonie, Wisconsin*