



Herald of Peace

March 2020

Peace Lutheran Church,
1301 Ave. D, Billings, MT 59102

(406) 252-5504
peacelutheranbillings.com

Making Christ Available to All by Rejoicing, Renewing and Reaching Out

Peace Lutheran Church Mission Statement

Leadership Directory

Pastor: Rev. Will Sappington
prsappington@gmail.com
office 252-5504 Home 647-8568
Office Manager: Dean Jenson
peaceoffice@bresnan.net
252-5504
Youth Director: Vanessa Stieger
peacelcyouth@gmail.com
office 252-5504 cell 698-5576
Intern Pastor: Melissa Johansen
internpeace@gmail.com
252-5504

Treasurer Steve Frank
Worship Accompanists Robin Goodheart
Sue Vigesaa
Bells of Peace Julie Draeger
Altar Guild Treasure Molly Johnson
WELCA Treasurer Connie Hausauer

Church Council

Dewey Anderson
Mike Brown
Robin Felton
Wendy Goodheart
Holli Miller
Tony Pecarina
Jody Pierce
Dan Quanbeck
Bryan Peterson
Nate Sider
Linda Strosky
Nancy Taylor

Worship Schedule

Saturdays: 5:00 pm
Sundays: 10:00 am
Education Hour: 11:00 am
Sunday Channel 7 at 9:00 am



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Prayer Pathways

*Forgive us, Lord Jesus, for caring too much
For rules and traditions and standards and such.
For while they are useful and good in their place,
In keeping them, sometimes we overlook grace.*

*"The Well Loved Traditions"
Carolyn Winfrey Gillette*

If you've journeyed with us through Lent at Peace in the last few years you have heard me encourage you to pick something up in this season instead of giving something up for Lent. I often encourage picking up a new spiritual practice whether it is a new dedicated time of prayer, a time for evening or morning devotionals, a new opportunity to serve neighbors in need, or a time for spiritual friendships. How is God tugging at your heart in this time? What do you think you might pick up?



I know for me the easy path is to go back to the tried and true, the things I've done before. I am very prone to get stuck in a rut. So this year I'm asking you to pick something you have not done before. The prayer beads

Prayer Concerns of those we prayed for February 2020

We Believe in Prayer For praise and thanksgiving ...

Elizabeth A. Eaton - Presiding Bishop, ELCA
Jessica Christ - Bishop - Montana Synod;

For people around the world in need ...

New Members to come to Peace
Needs of our neighborhood
Visitors to Peace Food Pantry
President Donald Trump (requested by Peace member)
Christine & Scotty Soileau – Quantico, VA. (member of Peace)

For illness or injuries .. of members

Carol Hoefner - St. John's
Kathy Gilbertson
Hank Tungstall - healing
LaWanda Sherseth - healing
Annette Reich - Tender Nest
John Modde - recovery
Kathleen Gregg - healing
Larry Heiser –

For illness or injuries .. of family and friends.

Pastor Jean Hay cancer diagnosis
John, for peace and healing

Mary - comfort

Dorothy

Briana, Lucas, Todd and Kendra

Jim Zeiler, brother of Sharon Hedden, healing

Jenny - Rick & Barb Olson daughter, cancer

Malcom - 6 yrs. old with a brain tumor

Rako Zech & family, Ron's Zech son -
cancer diagnosis

Gary Fink - healing

Ann Strecker - friend of Rick & Barb Olson - healing

Laura Fisher (Jodi Peterson's cousin) cancer

Micah Hilario, son-in-law of Linda & Gary Branae,
(Lois Gorseth friends) has been diagnosed
with ALS

Shawn Hanser

Bud Leuthold - friend of Joy Lindberg leukemia

For those grieving...

Welliever family on the death of Dean's father
David

Barb Lee and family on the death of her father
Bob

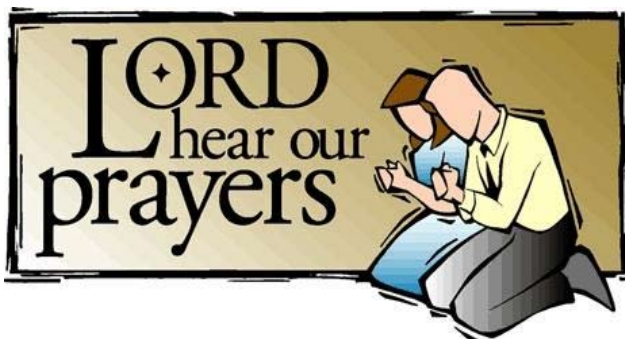
With sincere gratitude

Thank you so much for the valentines box of treats! When I received this, it made my entire week getting to have some sweet treats I cannot afford due to the fact that I am a broke college student. Anyways thank you so much again I have already eaten 3/4 of what you have generously sent. Hope all is well. Kira Kristjanson

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ at Peace Lutheran; My wife June and I were so very touched by the outpouring of generosity you showed to help lay Brandi Johnson to rest. We felt compelled to pay her cremation expenses. Your assistance means the world to us! What a testimony to the love of family in God that you have shared so generously with us. Pastor Fred & June Rodda, Living Water Church

A sincere Thank You for all the warm wishes & cards that were sent to us for our 50th Anniversary. We are overwhelmed with the love & support of our church family.
Peace, Rick & Barb Olson

Prayer Concerns is a published list of those on the prayer chain, who have given permission to publish their names. If you are interested in praying for these, as well as others, please join the prayer chain. They have leaders who call or email. Please call lone Bloom at 652-2441 or Lisa Grimsley (698-4121).



Congregational News

A Day in the Life of the Intern

In the gospel of Mark there are quite a few references to food, eating, banquets, fasting, bread, and hunger. Especially with the focus of my internship project being worship and Communion around meals, I'm pretty disappointed that the lectionary left out Mark's two accounts of Jesus feeding crowds of people in the wilderness (6:30-44 and 8:1-9). These powerful stories teach us much about who God is and how God is working in the world. These are stories of God abundant provision in ways that were unexpected.

Thousands of people were gathered out in the middle of nowhere to hear Jesus teach and the disciples lost their cool in their concern for how all these people would eat. Jesus steps in and patiently helps the disciples see that they do indeed have something to offer. And pretty soon everyone had eaten their fill and they gathered up baskets full of leftovers! Jesus moved the situation from scarcity to abundance. The miracle of abundance was experienced through the seemingly ordinary event of gathering together to eat.

Even in this time of Lent, which is typically known to be a time of fasting and simplifying life as a way to reorient ourselves in preparation for Jesus' death and resurrection, we are still invited to partake in God's abundant provision. We experience that abundant provision in being able to provide for other people in their times of need or when others provide for us in our time of need. And we experience that abundant provision in being present with one another to offer care and love for one another in our times of joy and pain.

I'm eager to see how we will all experience God's abundant provision through all of our eating together this Lent- as we gather each week for worship and Communion, at the Lent soup suppers, the meals for my internship project (sign up sheets for these meals are on my office door!), and our worship on Maundy Thursday. May these times of feasting together give us strength and sustenance for our journey through Lent.

Peace,
Intern Pastor Melissa



Daylight Savings

Remember, Daylight Savings time change!
Mark your Calendar for Saturday March 7th and set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed.

Spring must be right around the corner....

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Psalm 51:10

Congregational News

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we will be making this Lent could be that new thing for you. It doesn't have to be the prayer beads though. What is important about picking up something new is that it needs to be something that engages your spirit and your passions. This new thing should stretch you a bit and feel a little uncomfortable as you begin. Most importantly, this new thing you pick up should center your life on God's leading.

I hope you will also attend to one thing that is a tradition. Our mid-week soup suppers and Lenten worship services are times when we fulfill our mission statement of Rejoicing, Renewing, and Reaching Out. We will join together to Renew in fellowship over the simple meal. In these meals folks from Saturday and Sunday come together and connect. We will Rejoice in worship services that focus on the prayers and lives of different saints from scripture. (After Ash Wednesday these services are 30 minutes long or less.) And in each service we will receive an offering that will go directly to one of the ministries we support. The gifts that you offer in Lent are joyfully received by six organizations who count on us.

The season of Lent is a time of reflection, repentance, and returning. We reflect on the relationship that God gifts to us and invites us into daily. We repent of all the ways that draw us away from God. We repent of our selfishness, our anger, our disregard for the lives of all God's children, and our rejection of God's love. Finally, we return. We return home to the place where God promises that God's love is manifest for us, in us, and through us. We return home to grace. Let us not overlook that grace given to us.

Peace,
Will +

Lenten Worship Schedule

During the season of Lent we will gather each Wednesday evening for soup supper at 6:00 pm. Worship will begin at 7:00 pm.

Mar. 4th *Hannah's Prayer:* 1 Samuel 1:9-18

Soup Host: Congregational Life - Offering -
Friendship House

Mar. 11th *Hezekiah's Prayer:* 2 Kings 20:1-6

Soup Host: Men's Breakfast - Offering - Christikon

Mar. 18th *Mary and Martha's Prayers:* John 11:17-35

Soup Host: Youth/Education - Offering - Amani for Africa

Mar. 25th *Jonah's Prayer:* Jonah 2

Soup Host: Church Council - Offering - Freedom in Christ Prison Ministry

Apr. 1st *Simeon and Anna's Prayers:* Luke 2:25-38

Soup Host: Mission and Service - Offering - Billings Public Schools Homeless Education



Worship News

March Worship Themes

*We journey through Lent as Jesus continues his ministry in Mark's Gospel
(Sermon focus texts are in bold.)*

February 29th & March 1st First Weekend in Lent

"Last & First"

Readings: Psalm 32, **Mark 10:17-31**

A man is asked to give up the very thing he uses to define his life. He finds this to be an impossible request from Jesus. How do we respond?

ELW Setting 4

March 7th & 8th Second Weekend in Lent

"Seeing"

Readings: Psalm 121; **Mark 10:32-52**

Jesus again predicts his crucifixion and resurrection, yet the bickering disciples still fail to understand who Jesus is and how Jesus is working in the world. But then we hear the story of a healing encounter between Jesus and a blind man who fully perceived who Jesus was.

ELW Setting 10

March 14th & 15th Third Weekend in Lent

"Tenants & Taxes"

Readings: Psalm 95; **Mark 12:1-17**

Jesus teaches using a parable that tells about his mission in the world and responds to questions of authority. We don't often recognize power in sacrifice, but Jesus certainly does.

Country Gospel

March 21st & 22nd Fourth Weekend in Lent

"Great Commandment"

Readings: Psalm 23; **Mark 12:28-44**

What is the greatest thing you have ever been taught? What words of wisdom do you hold dear? What do we need in order to live well with each other? Come and hear!

ELW Setting 8

March 28th & 29th Fifth Weekend in Lent

"Keep Awake"

Readings: Psalm 130; **Mark 13:1-8, 24-37**

Jesus makes it clear that no earthly rulers or kingdoms compare with God's power. But what isn't so clear is when the Son of Man will come. How can we stay awake to the ways God is working around us?

Special Lent

SOUP SUPPERS ARE HERE!

Do you have a favorite soup recipe or want to try out a new recipe? Lenten soup suppers are coming beginning March 26th with Ash Wednesday. Look for the purple binder on the table in the narthex to either



bring soup for 30, simple dessert, rolls, or clean up. Many hands make light work. Soup will be served at 6:00 with worship to follow at 7:00. Come fellowship with us and share your food.



Mission and Service News

Upcoming Mission & Service Opportunities to Watch For

The Mission and Service committee continues to offer many opportunities to serve others. Please consider praying for where you can personally be doing God's work with your hands, and pray for those who will actively participate.

Here are the upcoming Mission and Service opportunities.

- ➔ **Lenten Offerings-** Our Lenten offerings will be supporting Lutheran World Relief, Friendship House, Christikon, Amani for Africa, Prison Ministry, and Billings Public Schools Homeless Education.
- ➔ **All Congregation Day of Service/Family Promise set-up-** Join us April 19th for our next round of sandwich making and setting up for the families from Family Promise.
- ➔ **Spring Opportunities-** Watch for upcoming opportunities to support the Lutheran World Relief Quilt offering and Buck-a-Chick. We also continue to support the school kit drive.



As a friendly reminder, all committees could always use new volunteers. Consider exploring the numerous committee opportunities available at Peace Lutheran.

Christikon Clips

March 2020

Bus Attendants needed for 2020 – Would you or someone you know be willing to ride with youth on their way to Christikon? Yes? Please call Kerry in the office at 406-656-1969 or email at secretary@christikon.org for details. I pays a daily rate as well.

Don't miss out on the Early Registration Discount for youth campers: **Register by March 15 and save \$25 in any youth session.** If you don't have the camp brochure mailed to you, pick one up at the church, or register online.

Christikon is an extension your congregation's ministry

Adults and families: Check out the special focus for each of the family/adult weekends next summer at Christikon: work projects, faith formation, and Bible study will be woven together with worship, meal fellowship, re-creation, folk dancing, and much more. Family/adult brochures will be mailed by the end of February and are available at churches in early March, or check out camping for adults and families online at www.christikon.org.

*It is the mission of Christikon to awaken and nurture faith in Christ—
exploring God's creation and the adventure of life together.*



Congregational News

Pick up a **Lenten Devotional** to enrich your Lenten journey. This year's Devotional Theme is "Wondrous Love". The booklet has a brief Bible passage, some thoughts to ponder and a prayer for each day during Lent. Pick up your copy from the Peace Library - no check out required - it is yours to keep!



Living Lutheran Magazine Please check the sign up in the narthex to renew your "Living Lutheran" subscription. New subscribers add your name, address and zip code to the list. The price is \$8.95 for the year. Make checks payable to Peace and either drop in the offering plate or in the office. Please note that it is for your subscription. Thanks
CLOSING DATE
MARCH 15



Opportunities for Studying God's Word
 There is a place for you!



Circles:

Ruth meets the 2nd Tues. of each month at 11:30 am at Hardees on 24th

Deborah Katie meets the 2nd Saturday of each month at 10:30 am at Peace

Martha Circle meets the 3rd Wednesday at 10 am at Peace

Men's Breakfast: Every Wednesday at 6:30 am join the men in the fellowship hall for breakfast and Bible study

Bible Studies:

Mid-Week Evening Bible study is the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at **7:30 pm during Lent**

Thursday Morning Bible study meets at 9 am in the library area

Doughnuts and Coffee; What a great time of fellowship we have after Sunday worship with Coffee and Doughnuts. We are looking for sponsors each week to defray the cost of the Doughnuts. The cost is \$32 per week. If you are interested the sign-up sheet is located in the narthex. Thank you!!



FOOD DONATION WEEKEND
March 7th & 8th

We will be collecting for the **Peace Food Pantry,**

This month there is especially a need for single-serving canned fruit, canned meals with pull top lids, soup, cereal and granola bars.



Congregational News

Church E-mail Addresses



Pastor Will

prsappington@gmail.com

Church Office

peaceoffice@bresnan.net

Intern Pastor

internpeace@gmail.com

Youth Director

peacelcyouth@gmail.com

Check out the web site:

peacelutheranbillings.com. Web site is updated with, up to date calendar, newsletter in color, Youth page, and photo page.



Church Council Minutes

The approved church council minutes are available at the bulletin board outside the church office. Thank you

Find us on facebook:
Peace Lutheran Church, Billings MT

Simply Giving Program - Would you find it helpful to have your offerings taken from your bank account as you do other monthly drafts? Thrivent Financial for Lutherans sponsors a program called Simply Giving which offers this service for people who wish to have offerings transferred electronically to Peace Lutheran Church account. For those who travel, this is particularly helpful in keeping up with their intended offerings, and it will keep you from having to make up the difference later. Contact the church office for more details.



Bible Studies

The Regular schedule for Women's Circles returns:

Ruth Circle meets on the second Tuesday at 11:30 am at Hardees on 24th

Martha Circle meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall

Deborah/Katie Circle meets Second Saturday at 10:30 am at Peace

Congregational Life Committee

The Congregational Life Committee is responsible to touch the lives of the people of Peace Lutheran Church by involving them in the life and ministry of the church. One of the most visible responsibilities is fellowship following worship services. We moved from asking service committee members to bring cookies, etc., to providing doughnuts. So, the duties have been reduced and only one or two people are needed for each Sunday. We will continue to assign monthly service committees as we have done in the past. If we have a potluck or other congregational function during the month, the committee may be asked to help. A committee chairperson will be assigned each month and will ask committee members to help with the fellowship/coffee following Sunday worship.

March Serving group

Bernie Mason, chair
Steve Frank
Gertie/Leroy Gross
Paula/John Jackson
Fern Schock
Sandy Johnson
Jacki Fayram
Jerilyn Dukart
Erica/Andrew Hayshida
Luella/LeRoy Ketterling
Luayne Amunrud

Congregational News

2020 Circles & Bible Studies:

Everyone is welcome!

Martha Circle

*Meets Third Wednesday, at 10:00 am
in the Fellowship hall*

Deborah-Katie Circle

*Meets 2nd Saturday at 10:30 am
at Peace*

Ruth Circle

*Meets second Tuesday at 11:30 am
at Hardees on 24th*

Peace Lutheran Church Council

- President - Tony Pecarina
- Vice President - Dewey Anderson
- Secretary - Linda Strosky
- Dewey Anderson
- Mike Brown
- Robin Felton
- Wendy Goodheart
- Holli Miller
- Tony Pecarina
- Jody Pierce
- Dan Quanbeck
- Bryan Peterson
- Nate Sider
- Linda Strosky
- Nancy Taylor

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study

Meets every

**Wednesday at 6:30 am in the
Fellowship Hall. New-comers
and one-timers are
always welcome**



Boards/Committees

St John's Ministries

- Rich Robbins
- Rhonda Sappington

Christikon

- Kaia Sappington
- Mike Brown
- Erl Barsness

Lutheran Center

- Rhonda Hanson
- Debbie Sider

Endowment Trustee

- Ed Popp
- Bernie Mason
- Dean Welliever
- Molly Johnson
- Rhonda Hanson

Nominating Committee

- Dean Welleiever
- George Simek

Questions about Council Activities? If

you have any questions or comments regarding any council action - pending or complete - please contact

President Tony Pecarina

Vice-President Dewey Anderso

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!**

RE M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS**

March 19th

Catch
Worship
Service
Broad-
cast on
Community
Channel 7
Sunday Mornings
at 9:00 am



Education and Youth News

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Community News

Words from the Bishop:

Following into love

“Are you following Jesus? I want you to look at yourself and ask that question.

Are you a follower? Am I?”

These are the first words of Henri Nouwen’s newly published book, *Following Jesus, Finding Our Way Home in an Age of Anxiety*. (p. 11) In this book that reads like a devotional rather than a textbook, Nouwen speaks words of hope, faith, and spiritual guidance to those who are wandering in life’s busy-ness not following anything and to those who have given up to sit in lostness. “It is into this deeply tired world of ours,” Nouwen proclaims, “that God sends Jesus to speak the voice of love. Jesus says, ‘Follow me. Don’t keep running around. Follow me. Don’t just sit there. Follow me.’” Nouwen adds that this voice of love “can completely reshape our life...to one that is focused and has a point to go to.”

“Are you following Jesus? Am I?” These questions are crucial questions for Christians in this third decade of the 21st century. Are we truly following Jesus or are we wandering around in wildernesses of emptiness, exhausting ourselves in a search for what matters? Are we truly following Jesus or we sitting in apathy, not caring if anything matters?

Of course, in order to answer Nouwen’s questions, we who say we are followers usually find ourselves asking the follow-up question, “What does it mean to follow Jesus?”

We don’t spend a lot of time exploring together as church what it means to follow Jesus. We don’t seem to want to talk about our faith in Christ at all or what it means for our daily lives. These days we seem to want to focus on and react to politics, social justice issues, the changing church. We talk about our excitement or fears or angers about these things. We talk about our possible answers and fixes to these things.

But we don’t talk much – at least not deliberately, intensely, deeply – about following Jesus and what it looks like in this time and place.



And we should. Not just because it is our primary call as Christians – to follow Christ. But also because for those who own the identity of Christian, it is only in and through our following that we can respond to the socio-political and changing church issues that face us. If we don’t have some sense, some understanding, some feeling of what it looks like, means or feels like to follow Jesus, all of our reactions to the issues of the world will be meaningless. If we don’t have some depth of relationship with the God who is love made incarnate in Jesus whom we follow through power of the Holy Spirit, then we will wander wildly from one human solution to the next. Or end up collapsing in hopeless apathy when none of them succeed according to our expectations.

For finally following Jesus is about relationship – a rich relationship of faith, hope, and love. Faith is a relationship word, not a “you have to think my way about this belief or that issue” word. Faith is first and foremost a deeply trusting and hope-filled relationship with the God who loves us and gives us new life. In this trust and hope, empowered by the Spirit welcomed in, the follower of Jesus commits to this way of new life given by God. And this new way of life that we as followers of Christ are called to commit to in faith starts, ends and is filled with love.

That is why the be-all and end-all of the whole law that guides this life is contained in the Two Great Commandments: “The first is, ‘...the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Jesus, Mark 12:29-31)

In that love,
Bishop Laurie



March 2020

1 *First Sunday in Lent* During the 40 days of Lent we recall how Jesus, the Son of God, withstood temptations even in a weakened state. Pray that we will find confidence and courage through faith in Jesus and will draw on the strength of God to endure the temptations and distractions of daily life.

2 Give thanks for the contributions and impact of women of all ages and abilities who shape our society and communities, share their faith and wisdom, serve our neighbors in need and respond to God's call to serve as lay and rostered leaders in our congregations and church.

3 Give thanks for the witness and work of the Rev. Lancelot Themba Mkhabela and Kwena Mkhabela, regional representatives for Madagascar, West Africa and Central Africa; the Rev. Kirsten Laderach, YAGM country coordinator for Madagascar; and the seven volunteers serving alongside our companions in that country as part of the Young Adults in Global Mission program.

4 Be glad and shout for joy! Trust in God's love and mercy, which strengthen and preserve us in our every need and circumstance.

5 Pray that during Lent we will carve out time in our busy lives to pause and reflect on our faith, our baptismal journeys and the life and suffering of Christ, who sacrificed himself for us that we might enjoy a new life, reconciled to God and full of love, mercy, hope and a spirit of service.

6 Give thanks for the gift of grace we have in Jesus Christ, which sets us free to live our faith with boldness and to serve our neighbor.

7 Pray for peace, reconciliation and healing in the world wherever there is conflict or war, especially in Iran, Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and parts of Africa. Ask that the Spirit of God will guide and inspire political leaders, diplomats and mediators, soldiers and peacekeeping forces to be persistent and unified in seeking peaceful, just and compassionate solutions and treaties.

8 Talk with God. Ask your questions even though some feel deep and perplexing, and trust that God will listen and respond as a loving, concerned parent.

9 Thank God for our special relationship with the United Church of Christ, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1997; pray for the church, its diverse ministries and its members and leaders; and pray that together we will find mutual support, new partnerships and new resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.

10 Harriet Tubman (1822-1913) and Sojourner Truth (1797-1883) were born into slavery but emboldened by their convictions of justice, equality, faith and concern for others to fight against slavery and to advocate for women's rights. Ask God to grant us a similar boldness to live our faith and serve our neighbors who suffer injustice, poverty, oppression and hunger.

11 Throughout Lent, remember and give thanks that God is our ready source of help, protection, strength and life.

12 Ask for God's wisdom and creativity in developing our congregations as communities of faith where people discover a sense of belonging, feel grounded in the word of God and the sacraments, find opportunities for faith-centered learning and service, and know they are connected to the greater body of Christ.

13 Praise God for the undeserved and unearned gifts of mercy and grace given to us and our ancestors of faith. Pray that the Spirit will fill us with the words, thoughts and images needed to tell others about God's promises and activity throughout history and especially today.

14 Lift up prayers of concern and support for people and communities affected by the widespread destruction caused by wildfires in Australia. Pray for the thousands of people displaced from their homes, for volunteer firefighters and relief workers, for the healing of nature and for the response efforts of the Lutheran Church of Australia, local congregations and Lutheran Disaster Response.

15 Pray that we will be inspired by the story of the Samaritan woman talking with Jesus at the well and will share with others — without bias or judgment — the good news of Jesus Christ, Savior of the world.

16 Give thanks for the service and witness of the Rev. Zachary Courter and Rev. Rachel Eskesen, YAGM country coordinators for Hungary, and the eight volunteers serving alongside our companions in Hungary and Serbia as part of the Young Adults in Global Mission program.



March 2020

17 As Moses and the Israelites called out in the wilderness for the reassurance of God's presence and attention, we, too, long for reminders and signs of God's activity, love and mercy in our daily lives. Pray that the Spirit will open our hearts and minds to God's presence and that we will be eager partners in God's work in the world — wherever it leads us.

18 Pray for people who are grieving the loss of a loved one or a member of their community. Ask God to help us be present with them through our empathy, care, support and faith; ask the Holy Spirit to help us kindle comfort, hope and peace when the fragility and brevity of life feel overwhelming.

19 Give thanks for the ELCA Lay Schools for Ministry network and the Select Learning program, partner ministries that equip us for our baptismal vocations and create opportunities for lifelong learning, sharing multigenerational stories of faith and nurturing biblical and theological literacy.

20 God is good and great and the creator of all that exists. Sing praises to the Lord and make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

21 Praise God that we will be changed inside and out by God's love "poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit." Pray that the love and reconciliation we have received from God through Jesus Christ will transform us to be passionate witnesses, disciples and bearers of the gospel for all who long for good news and hope.

22 Give thanks that God equips us and uses our unique abilities and gifts to care for the physical and spiritual needs of our neighbor. Ask God to grant us courage, patience and confidence in the gospel when we experience resistance, anger or condemnation in response to our advocacy and acts of compassion and justice.

23 Pray that our church's understanding of the theology and practice of accompaniment will deepen as we walk together with Lutheran, ecumenical and interfaith sisters and brothers around the world.

24 Óscar Arnulfo Romero (1917-1980), bishop of El Salvador Bishop Romero was assassinated for his courageous, gospel-driven work and his advocacy for human dignity, social justice and the rights of the poor and marginalized. Give thanks for his witness and impact and for those in the church and society who continue to fight for justice and the interests of people in Central America.

25 In Jesus Christ we have a loving shepherd and a guiding light who walks with us in the dark moments and places of our lives. Give praise and thanks to God!

26 Remember in prayer congregations and communities that are preparing for spring and summer storms and living with the uncertainty of what this year will bring. Pray that God will protect them, equip them to respond and calm their anxiety.

27 Praise God for spring and its abundant signs of new life, which prompt us to remember the good things God has given us to tend, share and use.

28 Pray that, as "children of light," we will grow in our understanding of what pleases God — lives full of light and shining with everything that is good, right and true.

29 Ask God to help us trust that our actions, words, witness, relationships and service can and will accomplish wonderful and sometimes miraculous things in the world. Pray that, in all we do, we will act with humility so that our lives point not to our own abilities and accomplishments but to the power and love of God.

30 Ask God's forgiveness for the times when, turning our attention to the breaking news of the day, we forget the masses of refugees in the world. Pray that, through our prayers, generosity, compassion and advocacy, we will be inseparably bound to those refugees who, displaced from their homes and communities, yearn to be welcome, respected, safe and settled.

31 Remember in prayer those congregations, synods, leaders and churchwide staff preparing for synod assemblies this year. Pray that the Spirit will guide and inspire their plans for the sake of doing God's work in the world, spreading the good news of Christ and growing the church.

Peace Lutheran Church

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**God's Work.
Our hands.**



**Lenten Worship Services
Wednesday Evenings**

**February 26 - April 1
6:00 pm Soup Supper
7:00 pm Worship**