



Herald of Peace

April 2021

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
peaceoffice1301@gmail.com
252-5504
Youth Director: Vanessa Stieger
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Intern Pastor: Josh Wyman
internpeace@gmail.com
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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	656-1709
Julie Draeger	471-3932
Robin Felton	670-2664
Wendy Goodheart	670-5471
Tony Pecarina	679-3880
Jody Pierce	245-9936
Dan Quanbeck	861-0482
Melissa Sider	763-443-6539
Nate Sider	855-1025
Linda Strosky	661-2626
Nancy Taylor	670-0053

Peace Office Hours

8am-12pm & 1pm-4pm
Mon. Tues. Thurs. & Fri.

Worship Schedule

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



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

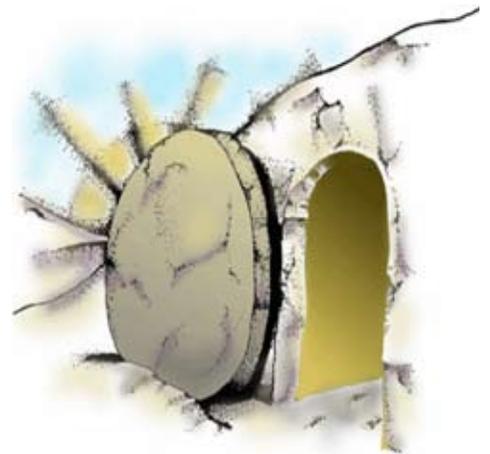


Rolled Away

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb
Luke 24:1-2

but I wanted to start with what the women saw when they all those years ago. The stone had been placed at the entrance of the tomb because disturbed or moved. The stone was a security measure. The stone was a barrier. The women found the stone rolled away.

Can you imagine what must have been going through their minds? On the way to the tomb they must have been wondering how they were going to move that giant rock in the first place. They final burial. They had a plan for what they would do as long as they could move the stone. The women found the stone rolled away and suddenly their plans changed.



Prayer Concerns of those we prayed for March 2021

We Believe in Prayer For praise and thanksgiving ...

Elizabeth A. Eaton - Presiding Bishop, ELCA

Laurie Jungling - Bishop - Montana Synod;

For people around the world in need ...

Needs of our neighborhood coping with

Covid - 19 virus

President Joe Biden (requested by Peace member)

Christine & Scotty Soileau – Quantico, VA. (member of Peace)

For illness or injuries .. of members

Laura Quanbeck

Leroy & Gertie Gross

Bob Voight

Luella Ketterling

Lisa Grimsley

Ron Zech

Howard Albers

Doris Berg

Kathy Gilbertson

Hank Tungstall - healing

LaWanda Sherseth - healing

John Modde - recovery

Kathleen Gregg - healing

For illness or injuries .. of family and friends.

Rena Peterson - Ken Peterson's sister

Dot and Paul

Gary Boje - Darlene Thompson's brother , recovery

Karen Anderson - healing

Denise- Bonnie Hovik Clausen's daughter in law

Kim Anderson - friend of Jo Pates, Illness

John & Rosanne Mode - John's son JC kidney cancer Chemo

John & Rosanne Modde - Rosanne's Wayne , bone cancer

Jon - healing

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

Shawn Hanser

Bud Leuthold - friend of Joy Lindberg leukemia

For those grieving...

Dewey & Doris Anderson on the death of their sister-in-law Karen Anderson

Family & friends of Linda Ericson

With sincere gratitude

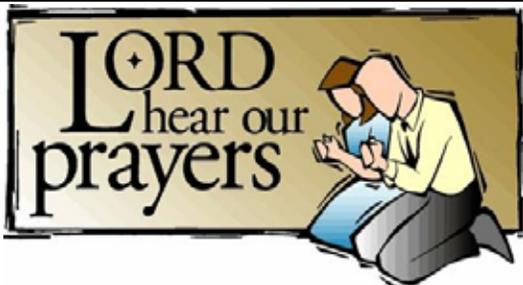
Members of Peace Thank you so much for the box of goodies. They're always a wonderful blessing and make me feel loved.

Prayers & Love Sydney Overstreet

Thank you so much for the many goodies for Valentine's Day! Majority of the box has already been eaten. It really made my day better! Thank you again:) Kira Kristjanson

Ireally appreciate the goodies. It has been helpful especially during this time with studying for the TEAS test to get into nursing school. Much appreciated. Thank you again, Kaylee Welch

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

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

-Luke 24:36

I have had so many blessings come into my life as I have done life and ministry alongside you all this year. And as you may have heard, the blessings have continued to come in my personal life, as Anna and I are expecting our first child. At our 20 week ultrasound, we found out that we will be having a little girl. I was overwhelmed with emotion, and shed at least one tear of joy at this news. I am so excited to meet her, and to help her grow into all that she can be. I can't wait for all of the things that we will experience together, and to walk alongside her as she becomes all that God has made her to be.

We have had so much fun telling all of our family and friends that our family is growing, and everyone has had beautifully positive and supportive reactions to this news. One thing that I've heard quite a few times, usually with a chuckle, is the line, "Your whole life is about to change." While the overwhelming emotions that I feel are joy and excitement, and I truly feel so incredibly blessed by this news, I wouldn't be completely honest if I didn't admit that at least a part of me is a little nervous too. This is the first time that I'll be a parent, and while I cannot wait to see what life will look like, it also means I really don't know exactly what the future will hold. While I know that I am as ready as I'm ever going to be, I know that it is impossible for me to be able to see all of the ways that my life is going to change. While I know that I am going to grow and learn so much alongside my little girl, I know that this kind of growth will change who I am, and a change in identity can be kind of scary.

When I start to get nervous about this change, this text brings me comfort. This text comes while the disciples are gathered together after Jesus has gone to the cross and been buried. They didn't know what their future would hold. They were nervous about all of the ways that their lives were about to change. They were unsure of what their new identity would be after this change. But in the midst of their worrying about the future, Jesus showed up and offered them peace. Jesus did not leave them to worry on their own, but met them in it, and showed them that there was a way forward. Jesus came to them in their time of anxiety, and let them know that God would be with them as they went forward.

As I write this, I know that I am not the only one who is going through a time of transition. I want to offer this passage to you all as a word of comfort and hope. While things may be changing, God will not leave us alone in our time of change. As we go forward into a time where things may be unknown, the Spirit will lead us and walk with us step by step. And as we wonder together about who we might become, Christ will show up in our midst and offer peace in the knowledge that Christ will be with us in and through it all.

God Bless,
Intern Pastor Josh



Congregational News

con't from pg. 1

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=h'hU_Yg'h]a Y'hc'fYcf']Ybh'ci fgY'j Yg'hc'; cX'h'g']bj]hUh]cb"='h'hU_Yg'h]a Y'UbX'dYf'gdYV'h]j Y'hc' [Yh'h\Y'UF[Yf']j]Yk'cZ'; cX'h'g']bhYbh]cbg'UbX'\cdYg'Zcf'i g'Ug'; cX'h'g' dYcd'Y'"GYY]b['h\Y'ghcbY'fc`YX'Uk Umik Ugbi'Ybci [\Zcf'h\Y'k ca Yb'hc'i bXYfghUbX'k\Uh'\UX'\UddYbYX'"H\Y'ei Ygh]cb'cZ'h\Y'\YUj Yb'mi fYdfYgYbhUh]j Ygz'k \mXc'nci'`cc_'Zcf'h\Y'`j]b['Ua cb['h\Y'XYUX3']g'cbY'k Y'bYYX'hc'k fYgh'Y'k]h' as well. The stone was rolled away and it changed everything.

We are entering a time of transition. This was surdf]g]b['hc'a Y'UbX'='Uggi a]b['hc'nci' Ug'k Y'"'oi h'h\YfY']g'gca Yh\]b['='_bck'UVci h'ci f'; cX"; cX'XcYg' amazing work with transitions and surprises. The stone is rolled away we get to journey forward to gYY'k\YfY'; cX']g'cb'h\Y'a cj Y"

DYUWz
Will +

A Congregational Meeting to elect a Call Committee consisting of 6 voting members of the congregation has been scheduled for April 11th at 11AM at the church. The 6 member call committee is to be made up of 2 individuals from the church council and 4 voting members of the congregation. Should you be interested in potentially serving on the call committee please reach out to any council member or to Tony Pecarina, council president, at 406-679-3880 or tony.pecarina@gmail.com



Maundy Thursday

April 1st You are invited to a guided time of observing Maundy Thursday in your home. You'll find everything you need on our website on the Holy Week Page.



Good Friday Worship

April 2nd Worship with us as we livestream Good Friday service at 7pm. This service will include the Passion According to Luke.

Easter Sunday

April 4th

We will have three outdoor Easter services on April 4th: 7am Sunrise, 10am and 11am. These will all be outdoor services if weather permits. We will have a sanctuary festival service available for you to participate with online.



Mission and Service News

Mission & Service Committee Happenings

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

➔ **PEEP, PEEP, PEEP.....THE CHICKS ARE BACK!** A \$1 donation buys a chick through the ELCA Global Barnyard program for a family in a developing nation. Celebrate Easter by once again participating in this fun outreach project of baby chicks! Chicks can be purchased by mailing a check to the church, and Easter morning if we are able to hold outdoor services. Buy one (or several since they're small!) and help a family escape hunger for good.



➔ **Spools of Thread for Lutheran World Relief-** Mission and Service is continuing to ask for donations of spools of thread to build fabric kits to send around the world. If you are able, please purchase two spools of neutral-colored general purpose thread, 250-300 yards each.



➔ **Christikon Benefit Auction-** Watch for more information for the upcoming 2021 online auction. See pg. 6 of newsletter for Christikon update

➔ **Salvation Army-**Would you be willing to love your neighbors by volunteering at The Salvation Army? The Salvation Army needs help with food preparation. The location would be in our Corps building at 2100 6th Avenue North where food will be placed in containers and sealed to be ready for delivery by our Mobile Meals vans. We would be able to accommodate 6-10 people for social distancing requirements. We ask that masks and gloves be worn which we can provide, but you may wear your own mask if you wish. Times for food preparation can be from 9:00am – 7:00pm, Mon, Tues, Wed & Thurs starting the second week of March. This volunteer project could be once a month on a monthly basis or more frequent, if the you would like. Any hours that you would consider towards this project we would be most thankful for. You may contact Darlene, at 272-8202 between the hours of 8:30am – 4:30pm for more information or to sign up.



➔ **Family Service** can use volunteers for sorting items as they come in.

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



Peace Quilters will resume in April !!!

Our first meeting will be Wednesday, April 7th at 9:00 in the fellowship hall. Then quilting will continue each Wednesday morning in April. We will need to follow the Covid rules, wear a mask, spacing while working, no food but you can bring a water bottle,

The truck for LWR will be coming on Saturday, May 8th, so we will be packing boxes on the 4th Wednesday, the 28th. Hopefully we will have many quilts finished to send to LWR. Looking forward to seeing everyone on the 7th. Elaine

Worship News



Resuming Sanctuary Worship

On April 10th and 11th we will be returning to worship in the sanctuary. We will not be asking the congregation to come on alternate weeks, but we will have many of the same guidelines in place from this fall. These include:

- We are not limiting attendance by last name.
- Masks will be required to enter the building and need to stay on until you leave. The only brief exception will be to partake of Communion.
- Do not come to worship if you have any illness or symptoms.
- We have limited seating available in the sanctuary. There are 22 household “pods” which are socially distanced. You will only be allowed to sit with people you live with currently. Overflow seating will go downstairs to the fellowship hall where the service will be on the big screen.
- When you arrive we ask you use the front double doors if at all possible. You will be directed where to a seat. We will seat from the front to the back of the sanctuary and dismiss from the back to the front.
- We will allow singing.
- We will provide communion elements.

Christikon Auction Goes Online

April 6-13 on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Christikonbenefitauction>

Like our page and share it with your friends! Watch for sneak peeks!

The annual **Christikon Benefit Auction – Quilts, Vacation Get-aways, and a Whole Lot More** begins on Tuesday April 6th and runs through April 13th. Items are some of the finest artistry including a variety of hand-made quilts, art work, gift baskets, Big Sky Condo, Murray Hotel Weekend, Big Sky Golf, jewelry and so much more. The auction will most definitely look different this year so join us on facebook and support Christikon’s ministry and enjoy the friendly competitive bidding.



Youth Campers: Our Early Registration Discount has been extended to April 15th! You’ve got time to get registered!

Christikon is celebrating its 70th year! Don’t forget to register for one of our many sessions available this summer! **How about Work Weekend? Bring your family and enjoy camp/fellowship and more while helping to prepare camp for the season! We look forward to welcoming you to camp! Go to www.christikon.org and find your session!**

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

Worship News

April Worship Themes

April begins with the commands to wash each other's feet and to share in the meal Jesus instituted. We move next to the day of death and stillness. Then the grand celebration! The tomb is empty! Come and see!

(Sermon focus texts are in bold.)

April 4th Easter Sunday "Alive!"

Readings: Psalm 118:17, 21-24; **Luke 24:1-12**

The story that changes the world and our lives. Death has been defeated. Life wins! Love wins!

April 10th & 11th Second Weekend of Easter "Alive in our Midst!"

Readings: Psalm 30; **Luke 24:13-35**

As the disciples were walking to Emaus, wondering where Jesus was, they encountered a man who they talked to about what had happened. Eventually, they recognize that this man had been Jesus all along. Jesus had been in their midst all along, just as Jesus is in the midst of us today. How can we recognize Jesus in the neighbor? How can we see Jesus in the world around us?

April 17th & 18th Third Weekend of Easter "Faith Alive!"

Readings: Psalm 4; Luke 23:33-34a, 46 **Acts 6:1-7:2a, 44-60**

We have transitioned to the book of Acts, and we see that the disciples are ministering to the world, and that the following of this movement is growing. The disciples are living out the teachings that they learned from their time with Christ, in ministering to the hungry, and standing against those who wield their power over others. How are we called to live out our faith in our world today?

April 24th & 25th Fourth Weekend of Easter "Word Alive!"

Readings: Psalm 23; Luke 24:44-47; **Acts 8:26-39**

There are many ways that we come to deeper faith. It is often the ministry of other saints in our lives that point us to the word of God, but sometimes scripture comes alive to us and we seek out saints to help us understand what we've read. In both cases God's word shapes and sends us. It has been doing this from the start.



Compline Worship

Mid-Week Worship Service at Peace!!!

Everyone is invited to tune in 7pm Wednesday evenings.

Go to Website peacelutheranbillings.com

and join in the live stream of worship

April 7 - Evening Song

April 14 - Compline

April 21 - Celtic Evening Liturgy

April 28 - Holden Evening Prayer

**Holden
Evening
Prayer**

Marty Haugen

This year again we ordered our Palms for Palm Sunday worship from Eco - Palms through Lutheran World Relief. Thank you to Bernie Mason, Roger & Sharon Schatzke and George & Kathy Simek for purchasing palms



Education and Youth News

Youth Group Update

Peace Pals and Peace Youth

As the weather is getting warmer, we are getting closer to being able to meet up again outside of the church! Be on the lookout for Youth Group on Wednesday nights. We are getting closer!

Confirmation

We are shifting gears for Confirmation. This year, we started an online version of Confirmation in Google Classroom. Each week, there will be a new slideshow lesson and video presentation. Throughout each month, there will be check-ins with the group and 1 on 1 with Vanessa. We are planning to do Confirmation in this way at least for the time being.

The awesome thing about Confirmation being online is that anyone can join us! No matter what age you are, if you'd like to join us for Confirmation or have questions, you can contact Vanessa at peacelcyouth@gmail.com to get more information.

The Jelly Bean Easter Prayer!

Everybody likes to eat jelly beans around Easter time, right? Here's a prayer to go with your sweet treat!

Green is for the grass He made.
 Yellow is for the sun so bright.
 Orange is for the edge of night.
 White is for the grace He gave.
 Purple is for His hour of sorrow.
 Pink is for our new tomorrow.

An egg full of jelly beans
 colorful and sweet,
 is a prayer, a promise,
 a loved one's treat!

Riddle Corner!

It's time for a riddle or two! Let's see what your mind can do! Answer one or both of these! Send an email to Vanessa, she will be pleased!

FJXX`Y` %

What has hands and a face, but can't hold anything or smile?

FJXX`Y` &

You're running a race and at the very end, you pass the person in 2nd place. What place did you finish the race in?

FJXX`Y` '

Two fathers and 2 sons spent the day fishing, but only caught 3 fish. This was enough for each of them to have one fish. How is this possible?



Easter at Peace!

This year, there won't be an Easter Egg hunt... but there will be an Easter service at Peace Lutheran, and you can bet that Vanessa will have something special for you when you get there!. We are so excited to see you in person again! Our Easter Services on **April 4th** (weather permitting) will be at:

7:00 AM

10:00 AM

11:00 AM

Community News

Words from the Bishop:

“Cleansing”

So how many times have you cleansed your house since the Covid-19 virus arrived at your doorstep? Ten? Twenty? One hundred?!

There have been days when I felt like I was living in a petri dish with those tiny covid cells having a party on everything I touched, even though I hadn't experienced any symptoms. And a couple of times I gave into the urge and just cleansed the whole house. I washed every item of clothing, bedding, and towel that had touched my body... with bleach when I could. I wiped down every counter, sink, knob and light switch in the house with bleach cleaner. And then I sprayed and wiped Lysol cold and flu killer on every surface I could find... computer, phones, keys, TV remotes, even my car. I felt like I was at war. But there was no way I was going to leave even one of those nasty little cells alive to infect me.

I wonder if that's a bit like what Jesus felt when he entered the temple in Jerusalem during the Passover festival... like his house, his Father's house, had been infested by a virus. Only in this case the virus wasn't Covid or the flu, it was sin: coveting, greed, and idolatry as people were worshipping everything except God. (John 2) Greed and idolatry had infected the temple, God's sacred house, the place where people were supposed to go to worship, pray to and praise the God who had saved them. Instead, self-centered profiteers were worshipping money and stealing power. And the religious leaders weren't doing a darn thing about it. In fact, they were in on it, getting kickbacks and feeding their families off the profits.

Time for a cleansing! In fact, that's what the story in John 2 is often called: Jesus cleanses the temple. In a fit of zeal -- an uncontrollable passion for what is right and good -- Jesus makes himself a whip of cords and he begins to cleanse. He chases the cows, sheep and doves out of the temple like a rancher on a wild horse. He dumps over tables and pours money on the ground to be stomped on by the livestock. He shouts and yells at the people climbing over each other to get away from him.

“Take these things out of here!” Jesus shouts, waving his arms and throwing things. “Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!”

Now that's a cleansing! I'm envisioning those tiny covid viruses fleeing my house in the same way, running and screaming for their lives.



Montana Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

I'm guessing we don't like this picture of Jesus very much. This angry Jesus who's so passionate about fixing things in God's house, even God's kingdom, that he loses his temper. Jesus' zealous cleansing of the temple is one of those images from John's gospel we'd rather not watch. I mean, if a man came in screaming about our fancy church building or how we're misusing God's house, I doubt we'd listen. We'd probably call the police instead. This is not what we imagine when we think of Jesus.

But in truth Jesus does have something to be angry about. To him a Wall Street bank has taken over God's sacred temple and is selling salvation. People, especially the poor, are being oppressed and taken advantage of by unscrupulous money changers. Too many people are more concerned about worshipping money or power or their ideology than worshipping God. No wonder Jesus is mad -- these people are breaking most of the 10 commandments, particularly commandment number one. They are loving and trusting things before and instead of God.

What things or people are we loving and trusting other than the God of Jesus Christ? Money? Property? People in power or celebrities? What about our ideologies or platforms or politics? Even our self-interest over and against others can be an idol to us?

Thankfully, Jesus' anger at the moneychangers in the temple is not God's final word to us. Thankfully, in Christ we are loved, forgiven and called into new relationship with God again and again even as we stray towards the idols we fall prey to in our lives. Thankfully, God's steadfast love in Christ endures forever with us.

But that love calls us into a life-changing relationship that is different than what the world demands. Our life-changing relationship with Jesus expects us to put the God of Jesus Christ -- the God of faithfulness, mercy, peace, patience, kindness, justice, hope, and generosity -- at the center of our lives, first in all we say and do. That is to be our response to the baptismal cleansing we receive day after day. And that is the covenant the Holy Spirit calls on us to keep. So let us put aside our idols and follow Christ into the Kingdom of Love and New Life that the whole cosmos has been invited to enter, living out the gospel in all we do and say.

May God bless and keep you all in the grace of Christ!

In Christ, Bishop Laurie

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

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

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.



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.

April Serving group

Joan Brown, chair
Mike Brown
Doris/Dewey Anderson
Mary Jo/John Greenfield
Kathy Aslakson
Carol Hauge
Mary Mosdal
Barb/Rick Olson
Randy Christensen
Barb/Jim Shaver
Heidi Kimmet



The Church Office has a new e-mail address.

peaceoffice1301@gmail.com

Congregational News

Currently Suspended

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 - Julie Draeger,
- Secretary - Linda Strosky
- Dewey Anderson - Abundant Life, Property
- Julie Draeger - Worship
- Robin Felton - Youth & Education
- Wendy Goodheart - Worship
- Tony Pecarina - Youth & Education
- Jody Pierce - Youth & Education
- Dan Quanbeck - Abundant Life
- Melissa Sider - Youth & Education
- Nate Sider - Youth & Education
- Linda Strosky - Mission & Service
- Nancy Taylor - Mission & Service



Men's Breakfast and Bible Study

Meets every
Wednesday at 7:00 am in the
Fellowship Hall. New-comers
and one-timers are
always welcome

Meeting on Zoom

Boards/Committees

St John's Ministries

- Rhonda Sappington
- Holli Miller

Christikon

- Kaia Sappington
- Mike Brown
- Erl Barsness

Lutheran Center

- Debbie Sider
- Kay Rossow

Endowment Trustee

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

Nominating Committee

- Paul Strosky
- Ann Barsness
- Lois Gorseth.

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 Julie Draeger

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

TURN IN YOUR ARTICLES EARLY!

RE M I N D E R :

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IS

April 15th

Catch Worship Service Broadcast on Community Channel 7 Sunday Mornings at 9:00 am





April
2021

1 As Paul said, our faith in Christ may seem like foolishness to some people but we can always trust in God's love for us through Christ because it is real, trustworthy and life-giving. Pray that God will embolden us to share our faith without hesitation or embarrassment and to invite others to believe even when doing so seems foolish.

2 Good Friday Remember the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus, the Son of God, for our sake and salvation. Give thanks that God looks upon us with concern, gracious love and mercy.

3 Lift up prayers of humble gratitude that through baptism our lives are conjoined with the life, death and resurrection of Christ, which enable us to "walk in newness of life" and be "alive to God."

4 Easter Sunday He is risen! Praise God! Give thanks that through Jesus' resurrection we are no longer constrained by sin and death but can celebrate salvation, new life and God's wonderful grace, which reclaims and changes us.

5 "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Look around and give thanks for the people, community, world, wonders of creation and signs of God's presence and work that surround you.

6 Arab American Heritage Month Remember in prayer the diverse gifts, cultures, heritages and stories of our Arab and Middle Eastern siblings in Christ, who remind us of the rich history and tradition of Christ's church in the world. Ask God to bless and further the work, witness and advocacy of Arab and Middle Eastern Ministries in the ELCA and the Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage of the ELCA.

7 Give thanks for the generosity shared from across our church, which helps us respond to the needs of the world, live out our faith in service to our neighbors and proclaim the gospel everywhere.

8 Jesus continues to walk with us daily and to make his loving presence known when we gather with bread and wine, remembering the sacrifices he made for our sake and for the restoration of our relationships with God. Give thanks and praise to God for being in our lives!

9 Give thanks for the empathy and support expressed by the Rev. Martin Junge, general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), in his letter to Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton and our church in a time of political and social tension. "People need to talk and listen to each other again," he wrote. "Broken relationships need to be mended. People need to trust again so that they can live and work together. People need to heal from their pain and their wounds." Give thanks for the LWF, a global family who accompany one another in doing God's work in the world.

10 Pray for the humility to acknowledge and respect God's infinite power, presence and grace for the sake of all people.

11 Jesus is with us in times of fear and uncertainty, just as he was with his troubled disciples after the resurrection. Pray for the Spirit to encourage our faith, ground us in the good news of Christ and grant us peace, reassurance, hope and direction throughout our baptismal journey.

12 Give thanks for signs of spring! Some places still have snow on the ground, yet others show signs of nature blossoming and new life emerging. Give thanks for the good, life-giving work of our Creator, who urges patience and stirs new life and hope in every season.

13 Pray for Creation Justice Ministries, Lutherans Restoring Creation and other ministries, organizations and networks that deepen our awareness and knowledge of creation and the environment and equip us to care for creation and our communities.

14 "How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!" Pray that God will help us better understand what living together in unity requires of us as siblings in Christ and as world citizens striving for peace, justice, reconciliation and mutual care.

15 Ask the Spirit to inspire wisdom, insight, compassion and boldness in the members of the ELCA Church Council as they gather online this week to guide and shape the work of our church in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ, serving our neighbors in need and supporting our congregations.

16 Pray that, as we share the gospel and serve our neighbor, we will recognize the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of our siblings in Christ who are also doing God's work in the world.



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17 Pray for our ELCA missionaries serving alongside companion churches and organizations in Asia and the Pacific region, including the Rev. Phillip Baker (Cambodia), the Rev. Chandran Paul Martin and Timothy Melvyn (India), the Rev. Charles Peterson and the Rev. Jeffrey Truscott (Indonesia), Hailey Brenden (Nepal) and the Rev. Suk Yeon Lee (Jang) (South Korea).

18 Lift up prayers of gratitude to God for the presence of the Spirit in our lives, which deepens our faith and trust in Jesus as the promised Messiah, helps us understand Scripture and moves us to respond to God's call that we bear witness to the good news of Jesus Christ.

19 Give thanks for volunteers of all ages and gifts who serve in congregations, including teachers, assisting ministers, child care providers, committee members, greeters, singers, musicians, people who fix things and those who visit the ill or homebound. Praise God for the rich diversity of gifts, skills and passions we share in the body of Christ.

20 The Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) is a pre-event to the ELCA Youth Gathering. Pray for the MYLE leadership team of youth, young adults and adults planning the summer 2021 event on the theme "Made Free." Ask God to bless their work of creating a community, inclusive and accountable to all, that is inspired and woven together by the Spirit.

21 What a joy it is to be called children of God because of God's great love for us! We may not know or understand everything about God or what lies in store for us, but we are still loved, forgiven and claimed without condition. Thank and praise God!

22 Earth Day Give thanks and glory to God for the blessings and mysteries of creation, entrusted to us to sustain and enrich all generations. Pray that God will make us wise, generous and responsible stewards of nature and Earth's resources for the glory of our Creator and the well-being of our neighbor.

23 Give thanks for our church's partnership with Lutheran World Relief to support pandemic emergency response projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

24 Remember in prayer people who are confined in our jails, prisons and correctional facilities. Pray that they will be treated humanely and justly, be renewed by the good news of Jesus Christ, and find hope and strength in God's love and mercy. Pray for the Spirit to help us — as individuals and as faith communities — empathize with prisoners returning home and boldly extend our hospitality, acceptance and support as they do the difficult work of building new lives in our communities.

25 Give thanks that Jesus is the good shepherd who knows us, loves us, unites us, leads us through life and is willing to sacrifice his life for our sake.

26 Give thanks to God for the generosity and commitment across our church as it supports and funds global mission programs and accompanies companions in 45 countries through missionaries, companion church grants, the International Leaders Program and other programs.

27 In this sometimes lonely world, praise God that we always have Jesus, a loving shepherd who knows us and provides us with care, guidance, renewal, comfort and courage as we face the challenges of daily life.

28 Pray for the needs of people in your neighborhood and community, give thanks for their joys and recognize how their lives intersect with yours.

29 Pray that the Spirit will make us courageous and articulate in sharing the good news even in the most intimidating of circumstances, just as John and Peter did while in prison.

30 Give thanks for national and local leaders, health care workers and volunteers who continue to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and help us recover physically, economically, spiritually and emotionally. Pray that God will help them persevere and that we will generously express our support and gratitude.



Peace Lutheran Church

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April 2021

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Christ has
Risen