



Herald of Peace

March 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
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
Julie Draeger
Robin Felton
Wendy Goodheart
Tony Pecarina
Jody Pierce
Dan Quanbeck
Nate Sider
Linda Strosky
Nancy Taylor

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.



The Jericho Road

From the Pastor
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A Ufh]b'@ h\Yf'?']b['>f"

A couple of weeks ago you heard me share this quote in my sermon on the Good Samaritan. It has been sticking with me. How are we called to change the landscape of the Jericho road? How can we make paths that are safe and welcoming to all who travel?



I have been a part of a songwriting group since the start of 2021. It has been a blast. Each week the leader (a brilliant musician named Peter Mulvey) gives a song prompt and all of the participants have six days to write a song. Deadlines are a good thing and I have written more songs in the last two months than I have in any other stretch of my time writing songs. Sometimes the prompts are seemingly out of left field. One week it was "Thelma and Costello." What would you do with that? The following week it was "Nice White Liberals."

Prayer Concerns of those we prayed for February 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

Bob Voight

Luella Ketterling

Lisa Grimsley

Ron Zech

Howard Albers

Doris Berg

Ken Hoefner -

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

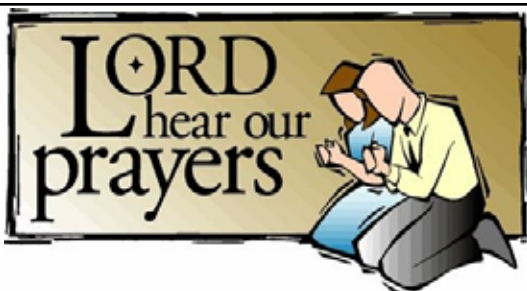
For those grieving...

Family & Friends of Nancy Whitmer on he death Feb. 12

Jodi & Bryan Peterson and family on the death of Jodi father

Family & Friends of Kenneth Hoefner on his death February 2nd

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).



Daylight Savings

Remember, Daylight Savings time change! Mark your Calendar for Saturday March 14th and set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed.

Spring must be right around the corner...

Congregational News

A Day in the Life of the Intern

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

-Hebrews 12:1-2

My dad was one of the biggest basketball fans I've ever met. We had season tickets to the Timberwolves for the first 25 years of the franchise, he picked what college he wanted me to go to based on who won the NCAA tournament the year I was born (it was Duke by the way), and he coached every team that me and my brother played on. One of the biggest lessons I remember him teaching me about the game was about how to play defense. When I was watching my opponent to see what they were going to do, he told me to always look at "the triangle." The triangle went from my opponent's left hip to their right hip, and up to the middle of their chest. He stressed how important this was because other players will try to use everything they can to distract you and fake you out, but if you keep your eyes locked on their core, they will lead you to exactly where they are trying to go.

Focusing on the core, and center of who we are as Christians is what the season of Lent is all about. During these 40 days, we are called to center ourselves around the story of Christ, as he is making his way toward Jerusalem. It is a holy time of prayer and listening, where we can rest in the fact that we are made perfect, spotless, and blameless in the sight of our God exactly as you are, regardless of who the world tells you that you need to be. It is a season where we can reflect on the things that are leading us towards life and life abundant for ourselves and our communities, and what things may be leading us away. It is a time where we can find rest in the forgiveness of a God whose love is unconditional, and where we can leave the ways we may have fallen short behind, at the foot of the cross. It is a time where we can reset and refocus our lives and our minds around the love of God that is still active in the world around us. There are many things in our lives that can distract us from our true identities as children of God, but when we keep our eyes focused on Christ, we will be led toward life, love, and hope for the world.

There is no one right way to participate in this refocusing. God has created each of us uniquely, so each of us may best recenter ourselves in ways that are unique to us. I have heard that some people are making meals for others who may need them, others are writing letters to people they haven't talked to in a while, other people are giving up social media so that they can free up more time to dive into their faith. I am picking up a spiritual practice that I haven't done in a while, and am listening to music, and reflecting on how one song each day is speaking truth into my life. Regardless of if you have already started doing something for Lent or not, I want to invite you into this recentering. I want to invite you to focus on the core and center that will lead you toward life, love, and hope for yourself and the world around you.

God Bless,
Intern Pastor Josh

Congregational News

con't from pg. 1

This was a challenge. I heard this as an encouragement to look at the Jericho Road and my complicity in simply mending the wounds of those injured on the road instead of making changes to

Not Enough

I tucked my children / into their beds
 We bowed our heads / and prayed for the world
 If my praying / was all we needed
 This nightly pleading / could fall to the side

6i h'='_bck]hŋ' bch'Ybci [\\
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To ease my conscience / I send donations
 Off to locations / far from me here
 If my offerings / solved the problems
 Then my wallet / could heal everything

6i h'='_bck žVi h'='_bck]hŋ' bch'Ybci [\\
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Six years ago near Kimberly, South Africa
 A man approached me with his hand outstretched
 I took inventory of the cash I had on me
 And pondered the least amount I could give and not look cheap
 But this man with his hand held out
 Asked me only for my name

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 ='Z'a mb]WbYgg #']g'U`h\Unŋ'fYa Ya VYfYX

I should be considered / to have missed the mark
 Cause my prayers are not enough
 The money is not enough
 And nice is not enough

In this Lenten season I am examining how I can be part of reforming the Jericho Roads in my life. Will you join me?

Peace,
 Will +



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

➔ **Lenten Offerings-** As a reminder, Lenten offerings will be supporting Family Service, Meals On Wheels, Christikon, Friendship House, Prison Ministry, and Billings Senior High homeless students. Our goal is to evenly distribute Lenten offerings among these six programs.



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



➔ **Buck-a-Chick-** Watch for more information as to how you can support this annual giving at Easter.

➔ **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.

Fabric Kits are one of Lutheran World Relief's projects to help people gain a skill they can use to earn an income. In 2019, more than 16,600 Fabric Kits were shared with people in 9 countries. The Quilt Group has been gifted pieces of fabric that are large enough to make many Fabric Kits for LWR, so as part of our outreach during Lent, the Mission and Service Committee would like to invite Peace members to participate in making these kits by donating the following:



- Neutral-colored spools of general-purpose thread, 250-300 yards each. Each Fabric Kit requires 2 spools.
- Fabric. Pieces of cotton or cotton-blend fabric should be any of the following sizes: 2 ¼ yds. or 58-62", 3 yds. of 42-45" or 4 yds. of 34-37". All items may be dropped off at church or call 896-0715 for pick-up.

Outreach Opportunity! 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.

Worship News

Lenten Worship Schedule

During the season of Lent we will have worship Wednesday evening together virtually. Worship will begin at 7:00 pm.

Our Lenten offerings will be supporting **Family Service, Meals On Wheels, Christikon, Friendship House, Prison Ministry, and Billings Senior High homeless students.** Our goal is to evenly distribute Lenten offerings among these six programs.



March 3rd - "Freedom"

John 8:31-36

March 10th - "Light"

John 1:1-5

March 17th - "Peace"

John 14:25-29

March 24th - "Freedom"

John 14:15-21

Christikon Clips

March 2021

Bus Attendants needed for 2021 – 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 April 1st 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.

Adults and families: In lieu of brochures this year 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, former staff reunion and much more. 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.*



Worship News

March Worship Themes

We continue through the season of Lent.

(Sermon focus texts are in bold.)

March 6th & 7th Third Weekend in Lent "Relentless Love"

Readings: Psalm 19; **Luke 15:1-32**

Three parables form our text for this week. These stories focus us on the nature of God when it comes to us as God's people. Does God ever give up on us? Can we ever be totally lost?

March 13th & 14th Fourth Weekend in Lent "Seeing Lazarus"

Readings: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; **Luke 16:19-31**

In our text today, we see the story of the rich man and Lazarus. How can we live out the love of Christ in the world around us? How do we better serve the Lazarus of our time, and refuse to turn a blind eye like the rich man?

March 20th & 21st Fifth Weekend in Lent "Seek and Save"

Readings: Psalm 51:1-12; **Luke 18:31-19:10**

This week we see two miracles of sight given. One man was literally blind and another was figuratively blind. In both cases the ability to see the kingdom of God clearly is given. Come and see!

March 27th & 28th Passion/Palm Weekend "Bring You Peace"

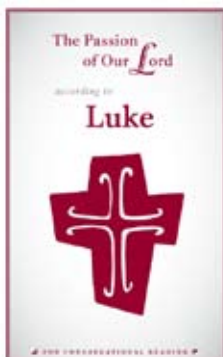
Readings: Psalm 31:9-16; **Luke 19:29-44**

Great crowds gather to celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, while Jesus weeps over the city. Both of them talk about peace, but the expectations of the crowds look very different than what Jesus has in mind.

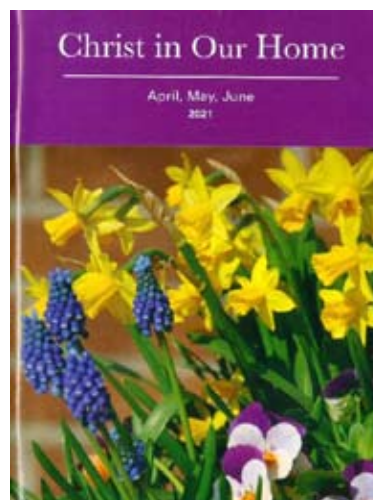
Passion Reading 2021

Traditionally we read the Passion with you taking parts following our Palm Weekend services. We would like to incorporate the same for our live stream service this year. Please let Pastor Will know if you are interested as soon as possible so he can set up recording times. We will assemble the videos and post them to use during Holy Week. We need the following roles:

- | | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Jesus | Pilate |
| People | |
| Peter | First Criminal |
| Centurion | Second Criminal |



Christ in Our Home - Devotional booklets are available in the parking lot entry for the months of April, May & June. Please feel free to take your daily



Education and Youth News

Peace Pals

As of now, we are not planning on meeting for Peace Pals for the time being. Although, we are working on something special for the Peace Pal kids in 2021. Thanks for being patient. Stay safe and do what you can to help your neighbor!

Youth Group Update

There will be no in-person Youth Group through for the time being. We will keep you updated as we move forward. Thank you for your patience!

Confirmation

We are shifting gears for Confirmation. On November 11th, 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.

Children's Message

Friends! It's been a while since I have done Children's Messages during our Worship Services. I'm happy to tell you that the Children's Messages are back! If you miss the Message, you can always find it on our past live streamed services on our website and Facebook page.

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` %`

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?

FJXX`Y` &`

Which word becomes shorter when you add 2 letters to it?



Lent and Ash Wednesday

This year, we are not planning on any in person youth activities during Lent and Ash Wednesday. I do have an inventory of Ash Wednesday stickers, so if you are interested in wearing a fun sticker to school, please let me know! You know where to reach me!



Community News

Words from the Bishop:

“Return”

“Return to the Lord, your God...” Joel 2:13

Ash Wednesday: the day of the church year (other than funerals and Good Friday) when we deliberately remember that we are finite creatures – dust and water molded together and created human by God. (Gen 2:7) “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return,” the words announce as ashes are rubbed on our foreheads.

Ash Wednesday is also the gateway into the trials and growing pains of Lent as we enter a wilderness of struggle and transformation into deeper faith. We often try to coax such transfiguring experiences out of Lent by giving something up or taking on a new discipline. Sometimes it helps; sometimes it falls flat.

I remember one year giving up chocolate for Lent only to get three boxes of Girl Scout Thin Mints delivered two weeks into the season. I suffered but didn’t grow much in my faith besides learning to time my cookie buying more effectively.

“Return to the Lord, your God...” Perhaps this is what we ought to do for Lent this year: Return to God. Leave behind the anger, hate, and injustice, let go of the fear, anxiety, and blaming and “Return to the Lord, your God.”

The prophet Joel describes what he believes “returning to God” means: “fasting, weeping, mourning, rending our hearts and calling a solemn assembly in which the preachers cry out in front of everyone, ‘spare your people, O God.’” Certainly we could do with some prayer-filled lamenting over God’s perceived absence during this past year of suffering.

David in Psalm 51 returns to God through a deep repentance for sins he committed. “Do not cast me from your presence and do not take your holy spirit from me,” he cries. “Instead create in me a clean heart.” We too, if we’re willing to take an honest look at our behaviors, could benefit from sincere confession in these days of division and violence, trusting in the joy of God’s salvation and forgiveness.

Or perhaps “returning to the Lord, our God” this year means simply doing what God asks the disciples to do during the transfiguration on the mountaintop: “Listen to him!” From the heavens, God proclaims, “This is my son, my beloved. Just listen to him.”

“Returning to God” is certainly about listening to God. An active, consistent, deep listening that doesn’t merely hear words on Sunday and then ignore them at the council



meeting or in the grocery store.

“Returning to God” is listening to Jesus’ call to love God with our whole self and loving our neighbors as ourselves. It’s listening to Jesus’ reminder to do unto others as we would have done unto ourselves. It’s listening as Jesus tells us he wants us to love our enemies and welcome those who are hungry, thirsty, stranger, unclothed, sick, in prison, or vulnerable and oppressed in some way. (Mt 25:31-46)

And then “returning to God” is doing it. If we are truly going to return to the Lord, our God, we must not only listen and understand; we are called to actually DO IT. Returning to God means following Christ’s call to love and serve in all we say, think and do.

Take for example the governor’s recent statement regarding “personal responsibility” as he removed the mask mandate. For followers of Christ, this does not mean doing what the culture says about personal responsibility by saying “I have the freedom to be responsible only for me and mine; others can take care of themselves.” That’s the self-indulgence Paul warns us against. (Gal 5:13)

Jesus teaches a different kind of “personal responsibility” that is centered on the neighbor, not the self. And it’s actually what we’ve been teaching all along – loving our neighbors. Being “personally responsible” is being responsive to our neighbors’ well-being and personhood. It means using our ability to respond by taking care of them, loving them and serving them even if we have to wear masks until Christ’s Second Coming!

The season of Lent is not about self-centered actions that pile up treasures for ourselves in this world. No season of the Church is about that, even Christmas. Lent is about returning to the Lord, your God, to listen to God...for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

As we wander through the wilderness of Lent this year, let us return to follow Jesus Christ into the never-ending love and forgiving grace that God gives you and me on the cross. And let us return to the new and abundant life God gives in the “already, not yet” resurrection.

For though we may be dust, in Christ we are and shall be the resurrected dust of the universe, filled with the eternal life of Christ and God-beloved forever.

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.

March Serving group

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



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 -
- Robin Felton -
- Wendy Goodheart -
- Tony Pecarina -
- Jody Pierce -
- Dan Quanbeck -
- Nate Sider -
- Linda Strosky -
- Nancy Taylor -



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 18th

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





March 2021

1 *Women's History Month* Give thanks for women throughout history and in our lives who have shared their gifts and leadership in the church and society, raised and cared for us, taught us and nurtured our faith, and fought for justice, equality and healing. Pray for women everywhere who suffer injustice, demeaning stereotypes, violence and poverty, that they will not lose hope but will be delivered from their suffering and persecution to live freely and boldly.

2 Give thanks that we can trust completely God's promises, love and forgiveness, especially when we feel unlovable, unfaithful or uncertain.

3 The Spanish word *amparo* means protection of a living creature from suffering or damage. Pray for the ELCA's Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) strategy, and pray that we will join in serving the most vulnerable children and their families as they seek safety and the opportunity to live in welcoming, humane communities and congregations.

4 Pray for our synod bishops, the presiding bishop and the secretary, who are meeting online for the Conference of Bishops. Ask that the Spirit guide and inspire their discussions, prayerful deliberations and decisions, which impact the ELCA, the work we do together and the Future Church goals and structure being implemented in the churchwide organization.

5 During our Lenten journey, pray that God will help us reflect on aspects of our life and faith that we find difficult to examine and confess, and that we will remember we are always loved and made new through the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ — our Savior, redeemer and source of hope.

6 Ask God to bless and guide our efforts to worship, commune, study Scriptures, socialize and care for each other online, and to find safe ways of gathering in person. Give thanks for the inspiration of the Spirit and the creativity of our siblings in Christ, who help us envision and practice new ways of being church together.

7 Pray that the theology, values, traditions and practices of our church and congregations will be centered in the good news of Jesus Christ and the ways of God, and that God will guide us back to this center when we are distracted or drawn away from our purpose and identity as the body of Christ.

8 *International Women's Day* Pray for women everywhere, for gender equality and equity, for the elimination of gender bias and stereotypes, and for opportunities for women to develop and use their gifts, skills, insights and passions without barrier or discouragement.

9 Pray that in the sign and symbol of the cross we will see the power of God at work for our salvation through Jesus Christ — a gift of love and mercy for all people and nations.

10 Lift up prayers of joy for, and find ways to reach out to, those celebrating birthdays, marriages, anniversaries and other special occasions without being able to share those moments with others in person.

11 Give praise and glory to our wonderful God, whose ways and commands are revealed to us with clarity and who is merciful and gracious with us when we stray from them.

12 Pray that we will continue to gain ground on vaccinating people against COVID-19, especially those who are most vulnerable and those who provide essential services for the sake of our health, well-being and daily needs, here and globally.

13 We are a publicly engaged church that participates in God's work of pursuing justice and peace and of restoring and reconciling communities. Give thanks for ELCA Advocacy, ELCAvotes, the Lutheran Office for World Community and the teachings of our church, which help us to understand the needs of our neighbors, equip us for social concerns and encourage us to respond as God calls us to serve and act.

14 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." This is welcome news for everyone! Give thanks and praise to God!

15 Give thanks that God has created us to do good in the world and that, even in complex and difficult circumstances, the Spirit is always at work teaching and emboldening us to love and serve our neighbor.



March 2021

16 Give thanks that God loves us, hears our pleas — spoken and silent — and grants us hope, comfort and relief amid our troubles. Ask that the Spirit will show us how to respond with wisdom, compassion and hope when our neighbors experience difficulties.

17 Pray for our ELCA missionaries serving alongside companion churches and organizations in Africa, including the Rev. Elisabeth Johnson (Cameroon), Anne and Willie Langdji (Madagascar, West Africa and Central Africa), the Rev. Alex Lachapelle (Kenya), the Rev. Brian Palmer and the Rev. Linda Johnson Seyenkulo (Liberia), the Rev. Lancelot Themba and Kwena Mkhabela (Madagascar, West Africa and Central Africa), and the Rev. Amanda and the Rev. Grant Applehans (Madagascar).

18 Ask God to prepare and equip congregations and communities — physically, emotionally and spiritually — to respond to the severe weather that often comes in spring, and to help one another endure.

19 Give thanks that God, through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, rescues us from darkness, sin, death and all that separates us from our loving and merciful Creator. Pray that we will take to heart Paul's reminder that "by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."

20 Thank God for our special relationship with the Reformed Church in America, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1997. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, and pray that together we will find strength and new resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor, especially in these uncertain and challenging times.

21 We grieve the suffering and death of Jesus, yet we also rejoice in his resurrection and the promise of salvation that comes with it. Pray that we will follow Jesus wherever he leads us — through challenges and joys — and that our lives will glorify God throughout the journey.

22 Pray for the lay leaders of our church, who respond to God's call to serve, accept invitations to share their gifts and skills, and give of themselves to grow the church, serve neighbors in need, nurture the faith of others and equip disciples of all ages.

23 Pray for God's mercy and love every day. Ask that God will instill in us joy and hope, create in us a faithful spirit, teach us truth and wisdom, and stir gratitude in our hearts for all that God has done and continues to do for us and all humanity.

24 Due to the lasting impact of COVID-19 and the uncertainty surrounding vaccine rollout, the ELCA has decided not to send Young Adults in Global Mission volunteers for its 2021-22 program year. Pray for young adult applicants who are eager to serve and share their faith, and for the enduring relationships we have with our companion churches and partner organizations around the world.

25 Pray for all those who grieve and suffer the loss of a loved one, friend, co-worker or neighbor, especially those impacted by the death of someone from COVID-19.

26 We see humility, sacrifice and unconditional love in the suffering Jesus endured for our redemption. Pray that the Spirit will make us humble, loving servants willing to sacrifice convenience, reward and emotional comfort for the sake of sharing the gospel and caring for our neighbors in need.

27 Pray for our ELCA missionaries serving alongside companion churches and organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean, including Albert (Gustavo) Driau and the Rev. Rachel Ringlaben (Argentina and Uruguay), Karen Anderson (Chile), Linda Gawthorne (Colombia) and the Rev. Claudia Lopez Ortega (Nicaragua).

28 *Palm Sunday* Jesus endured persecution, inner conflict, betrayal by his closest followers, arrest and an unfair trial leading to his death — all for our salvation and the fulfillment of God's promises and love. Give praise and thanks to the Son of God!

29 Pray that we might reconcile our differences and embrace, teach and act on our values, appreciating the diversity of humanity and our communities, attending to our neighbors in need, practicing mutual respect and care, and pooling our diverse gifts, skills and perspectives to change our society, church and world.

30 Prayerfully reflect on who Jesus is and what we profess to believe about Jesus as Savior, teacher, servant, example, source of truth, man and Son of God.

Peace Lutheran Church

Non-Profit Organization
1301 Avenue D
Billings, MT 59102-3196

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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



**Lenten Worship Services
Wednesday Evenings**

March 3, 10, 17, 24

**7:00 pm Worship
Live Stream**