



Herald of Peace

May 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
peacelcyouth@gmail.com
office 252-5504 cell 698-5576
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	656-1709
Julie Draeger	471-3932
Robin Felton	670-5573
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.



1 John 2:12-14

*I am writing to you, little children,
because your sins are forgiven on account of his
name.*

*I am writing to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.*

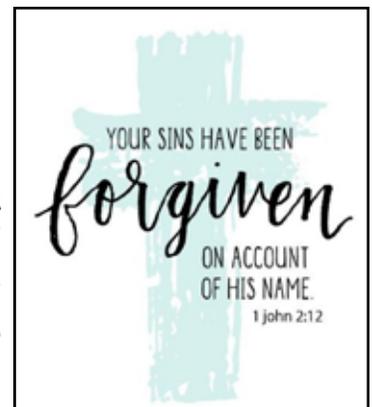
*I am writing to you, young people,
because you have conquered the evil one.*

*I write to you, children,
because you know the Father.*

*I write to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.*

*I write to you, young people,
because you are strong
and the word of God abides in you,
and you have overcome the evil one.*

Recently I was going through a stack of papers and I found an old list of instructions for a babysitter. It had the basic information of telephone numbers, the length of time my wife and I planned to be out, but I laughed out loud when I read the next section. Apparently I had decided to try and anticipate every possible scenario that might occur in the 150 minutes this young person would be caring for my kids. It was ridiculous. There was even a map of the house highlighting where first aid and cleaning supplies were kept. (I'm not a helicopter parent. You're a helicopter parent.)



Prayer Concerns of those we prayed for April 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

Ken Peterson

Leroy & Gertie Gross

Bob Voight

Luella Ketterling

Lisa Grimsley

Ron Zech

Howard Albers

Doris Berg

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

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

Dorothy

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...



May 31st

We remember our military personnel who have given their lives to protect our freedom!

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

*For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.
-Psalm 139:13-14*

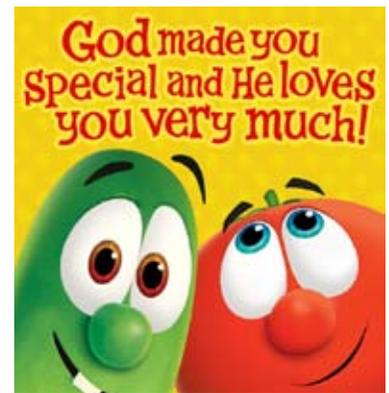
When I was growing up, VeggieTales was one of my favorite shows to watch. In fact, one of my first dates with Anna was watching The Ultimate Silly Song Countdown movie. We didn't do a lot of church stuff growing up, so I appreciated hearing the Bible stories and I loved the ways that they presented them. At the end of every episode, Bob the Tomato would always say the same line before the credits started to roll. He would say, "God made you special, and He loves you very much."

This was an incredibly important word of Good News for me to hear when I was a child, but I think it is just as important for us to hear today. I was talking with one of my classmates about the candidacy paperwork that we are both working on. They expressed how the hardest part of the paperwork was filling out the "Strengths" section. I responded by letting them know I struggled to write that section as well. It wasn't that we didn't know that we had gifts, it just felt like bragging and it made both of us uncomfortable. We both expressed how at one point or another in our lives, the virtue of humility seemed to blot out the gift of individuality, and our ability to claim the things that make us special was lost.

We have a God who created you uniquely, who gave you specific gifts, specific talents, specific passions, dreams, and goals. Our God knows every hair on your head, every freckle on your arm, every curve of your fingerprints, and loves everything about you exactly as you are. When this creator God made you with all of these intricacies and all of this uniqueness, our God looks at you and says that this creation is "very good." God made you special, and God loves you very much.

These gifts of God are meant to be celebrated and appreciated, and I want to invite us all to take some time to look for the things that make us special. I want to invite you to claim and own your gifts as an act of worship, praising God for how good God is to have made you special. God gave us these talents so that we can share God's love with the people around us in a way that no one else can. When we are able to claim these gifts, and use them in concert with the gifts of the people around us, we are able to live out all of who God called us to be together. We cannot be all that we can be as a community without you and your gifts and passions. You matter to us, to the community around us, and to our world. God made you special, and God loves you very much.

God Bless,
Intern Pastor Josh



Congregational News

con't from pg. 1

These days my kids are old enough to watch themselves and my parting words to them are much more like the words written to the community that received this letter. "Remember who you are. Remember whose you are. Remember you are loved. Remember to love each other. I'm not that far away." We need reminders that we are forgiven, that we are loved, that we are capable, and that we are not alone. We need these words.

I shared 1 John 2:12-14 with your Council at our last meeting. I asked them the question, "Who has been a voice reminding you that you are loved, forgiven, and strong?" I have been on the receiving end of these reminders my entire life. My parents reminded me when I was young and now my children remind me. Your voices have been reminders to me too.

I have a file. I call it my "happy file." It contains the notes I have received over the years for Pastor's Appreciation, Christmas, Easter, and for just because. These literal letters to me contain the same words we find in 1 John. Words of encouragement and words of hope. There are times I go to my happy file because I need the reminders.

May these words be a reminder to you that you are indeed loved. You are claimed. You are called. The word of God abides in you.

Peace,
Will +

CALL COMMITTEE

The following Peace Lutheran members have been elected to serve on the committee to call a pastor: John Goodheart, Wendy Goodheart, Lisa Donovan, Melissa Sider, Mike Brown and Holli Miller. The committee met with Associate to the Bishop, Jason Asselstine, to begin the search for a new Pastor for Peace Lutheran Church. The committee will be developing the Ministry Site Profile and is asking for your prayers as the process progresses.



THE CALL COMMITTEE has developed a survey to gather some information as we start the call process. The link to fill out on line survey is:

<https://sprw.io/stt-be1003> A copy of the survey is included with this newsletter. Please return to the church by May 2. Thank you.

The call committee has opened an email for members to email them if they have questions, comments, or concerns.

peacecallcom@gmail.com



The Next newsletter will be for the months of June & July. Please look ahead at your groups or committees activities for the entire summer so we can get the information into the newsletter.

Mission and Service News

Mission & Service Committee Happenings

The Mission and Service committee hopes that May's update finds you safe and well. As COVID numbers continue to improve and more community members receive vaccinations, we hope we can eventually get back to volunteering in-person for various activities during the year.

Here are the upcoming Mission and Service opportunities

- ➔ **Family Promise** – This year Family Promise of Yellowstone Valley has partnered up with United Way to help celebrate their 60th Birthday Bash by raising 60,000 diapers. In order to reach this lofty goal we NEED YOUR HELP! We are looking for congregations, businesses, or groups to host diaper drives any time from April 14th-May 9th (Mother's Day). During this season let's celebrate all mothers in our community by providing diapers to our youngest neighbors and relieve stress for so many parents in our community. Diaper Drives can collect any size diapers, wipes, and formula to distribute through the Community Diaper Bank. You may leave your donated diapers, wipes and formula at the church, and we will make sure they get to Family Promise. 
- ➔ **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 Work Weekend**- Consider helping at camp the weekend of May 28-31 as numerous volunteers gather to get the camp ready for the summer season. Many talents and hands are needed on a very busy weekend.
- ➔ **Family Service** can use volunteers for sorting items as they come in.

Thank you for participating in any areas that you are able as we continue to reach out in service as God's people. The committee meets again in May, and we will be discussing upcoming summer volunteer opportunities. More to come! Stay well and safe.



Peace Quilters

We have about 31 quilts and 46 school kits ready for shipment to Minneapolis for Lutheran World Relief. The truck will be coming the 2nd Saturday in May, the 8th so we will be putting the quilts on the pews for display on May 1st & 2nd. We will be meeting the 1st, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in May to finish up our work for this year.

Anyone interested in joining us is welcome.

Congregational News

Good news! Martha Circle will complete their study of James on May 19th at 9 a.m. We will be socially distant, wear a mask and bring your own coffee or morning drink of choice. No food will be served. At this time you can pick up your next study of Hebrews and pay Ann \$8.25. I can't wait to see everyone and share our study time together. Ann Barsness.



We need your help Family Promise diaper bank has partnered with United Way for their 60th birthday bash. This year, Family Promise is asking their congregations and partners to host a diaper drive to reach our 60,000 diaper goal. This would be a great way to help other mothers in the community celebrate Mothers Day. You can drop diapers (any size) and wipes off at the church and we will get them delivered to Family Promise.

Christikon Clips May 2021



There is still room to register for camp this summer! Space remains in youth on-site sessions and families/adult sessions, including the **Work Weekend, May 28/-31. Families register on line.**

You can register online www.christikon.org, or use the forms distributed with the youth brochures in your congregation. Or call us at the camp office for further information.

Special guest speakers become part of the Christikon life this summer during sessions for adults and families. During Continuing Education Retreat (July 26 – 29) and Mountain Weekend (Jul 30 - Aug 1) we feature **Dr. Hans Wiersma and Dr. Aana Marie Vigen**. Topic details can be found on our website. Come spend a few days of relaxation, learning, and faith growth with us. Full details can be found on our website 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.*

Graduate Recognition Sunday for our Peace Lutheran Church Graduates will be May 16th, at the 10 am Worship Service. We look forward to worshipping with our graduates, honoring them and also praying for them during this important time in their lives.

Graduates are:
High School
Justin Pierce
College
Bryce Peterson



*I devoted myself to
study and to explore...
all that is done
under heaven.*

Ecclesiastes 1:13



*"Honor ... your
mother, as
the LORD
your God
has
commanded
you"*

Deuteronomy 5:16

Worship News

May Worship Themes

In May we go through growing pains with the early church and we move to Pentecost.

(Sermon focus texts are in bold.)

May 1st & 2nd Fifth Weekend in Easter

"What Really Matters"

Readings: Psalm 22:25-31; Luke 2:29-32; **Acts 15:1-18**

The early church was not unique in the growing pains it experienced. They had the big questions of, "Who do we welcome? How do we stay faithful while we grow? Where is the Spirit leading us?" We ask those same questions today.

May 8th & 9th Sixth Weekend in Easter

"Freedom in Faith"

Readings: Psalm 98; Luke 18:9-14; **Galatians 1:13-17, 2:11-21**

Paul tells us a couple of his own experiences in living out his new identity, and explains why he lives in this new way. What is it that truly sets us free?

May 15th & 16th Seventh Weekend in Easter

"Belonging"

Readings: Psalm 1; Luke 1:68-79; **Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29**

The faith that God has given us has brought us together as one family from a variety of backgrounds and life experiences. How does God use the things that make each of us unique to spread God's love in the world around us?

May 22nd & 23rd Pentecost Weekend

"Spirit!"

Readings: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Luke 11:11-13; Acts 2:1-4; **Galatians 4:1-7, 5:16-26**

This Spirit comes! Gifts are given! The people are sent!

May 29th & 30th Holy Trinity Weekend

"Word Alive!"

Readings: Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; **John 3:1-17**

A visitor comes to Jesus under the cover of darkness. The Light of the World responds with hope for all.



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

May 12 - Compline (night prayer) service

The Second Wednesday of the month

May 26 - Holden Evening Prayer Service

The Fourth Wednesday of the month

**Holden
Evening
Prayer**

Marty Haugen

Education and Youth News

Youth Group Update

As the weather is getting better, that means we are getting closer to meeting in person for Peace Pals and Youth Group+ Confirmation. We are so excited to get back into the swing of things with you guys this summer! What songs are you most excited to sing? What are you looking forward to learning about? Whatever it is, we can't wait!

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is back this year! The week of June 7th-11th we will be meeting outside from 9:30 - 11:00 AM for an hour and a half of fun. For more details, you can visit peacelutheranbillings.com/youth On our website, you will be able to find a registration form. Make sure you sign up in time to get a free t-shirt!

We will also be looking for volunteers to help the week run more smoothly. If you are interested in helping out, you can email Vanessa at peacelcyouth@gmail.com

At the Movies with Peace Lutheran!

Bring a lawn chair and meet us in the Fellowship Hall for these five great movies! After each movie, we will have an activity and a discussion. Stay tuned for more details as we get closer to these dates. This is an all-ages event.

This summer, we are bringing back our Faith and Film Series at Peace. Throughout June, July, and a little bit of August, we will be diving into 5 movies: *Frozen II*, *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*, *The Greatest Showman*, *WALL-E*, and *Hidden Figures*.

Don't forget to bring a comfy chair, some snacks, and whatever you need to have an awesome experience At the Movies. There is no need to sign up. Come as you are and bring a friend or two!

About the First Two Movies

Frozen II

A Disney Family and Musical film. Elsa travels to the enchanted forests and dark seas beyond her kingdom. An adventure that soon turns into a journey of self-discovery.

Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse

Bitten by a radioactive spider in the subway, Brooklyn teenager Miles Morales suddenly develops mysterious powers that transform him into the one and only Spider-Man.



FROZEN 2
LEGENDS AND LEGACIES



Dinner Prayer

Since we haven't been able to eat dinner together, I thought I would remind you of our awesome Dinner Prayers that we used to sing! Here is one of them!

ABC Grace

This one is about as easy as it gets! It's to the tune of the ABCs!

A-B-C-D-E-F-G

Thank you, God, for feeding me!

3. What are the 5 gifts you would like to see our next pastor possess?

- Help people develop their spiritual life.
- Help people understand and act upon issues of social justice.
- Provide care and nurture.
- Be active in visitation of members and non-members.
- Be effective in working with children.
- Build a sense of community among the people with whom he/she works.
- Help others develop their leadership abilities and skills for ministry.
- Be an effective administrator.
- Be an effective communicator.
- Be an effective teacher.
- Encourage support of the Church's wider mission.
- Work regularly in the development of stewardship growth.
- Be active in ecumenical relationships.
- Be effective in working with youth.
- Organize people for community action.
- Be skilled in planning and leading programs.
- Have a strong commitment and loyalty to the Lutheran Church.
- Understand and interpret the mission of the Church from a global perspective.
- Deal effectively with conflict.
- Bring joy and good humor to relationships.
- Be able to share leadership and work in a team.
- Be creative and innovative about his/her tasks.
- Be able to use technology and media.
- Appreciate cultural diversity in language and customs.
- Have talents in the areas of music, arts, and writing.

1. Contact Info:

Name:
Email:
Phone:

What are the top 5 tasks you would like our future pastor to focus on? (Pick 5)

- Administration
- Chaplaincy
- Communications/Media
- Counseling
- Evangelism/Mission
- Innovations/Creativity
- Interpersonal Climate
- Ministry with Seniors
- Outdoor/Camping Ministry
- Pastoral Care/Visitation
- Recruit and Equip Leaders
- Social Ministry
- Strategic Mission Planning
- Youth and Family Ministry
- Building a Sense of Community
- Children's Ministry
- Community Organizing
- Early Childhood Administration
- Financial Management
- Crisis Ministry
- Preaching/Worship
- Self-Care/Family Life
- Spiritual Formation/Direction
- Teaching
- Education
- Conflict Management
- Ecumenical Work
- Global Service
- Interpret Theology
- Ministry in Daily Life
- Music/Worship/Arts
- Participant in Larger Church
- Public Policy/Advocacy
- Small Group Ministry
- Stewardship
- Volunteer Coordination

Call Committee Survey

Please Complete by 5/2/21

4. What are the top 3 strengths of Peace Lutheran Church?

5. Any other comments for the Call Committee? (Hopes and dreams for the church, ministries you would like to see developed more/started, etc....?)

Community News



Words from the Bishop:

“Neighbor Love”

“How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.” These words from Elizabeth Barrett Browning’s poem are usually read as a romantic expression of love, a Valentine’s Day pronouncement of the sentimental heart to the lover’s beloved.

But what if we read them as a question and response to Christ’s eternal call to love our neighbor with the fervor of people who are so passionately loved first by God?

Love, though often sentimentalized by our society, is actually more attitude and action than feeling, at least in the way Christ call us to love our neighbors, God and self. And it’s grounded in the love that God gives to us every moment of every day.

- God’s love is a deep passionate desire for the well-being of all of creation, including each and every human being and the entire human race. It is also the deep sadness and even anger God has when we don’t share this desire for the well-being of our neighbor and act to destroy rather than build up.

- God’s love is a rich friendship with all of creation, including humanity, that wants to walk through life together with us, supporting, encouraging and raising us up to new life in an intertwined relationship of beloved companions on the journey.

- God’s love is the willingness to lose the self for the sake of all of creation, to give up God’s own rights and privileges, wants and self-centered goals as Jesus did so that the whole creation and all the creatures in it (including humans) may live in wholeness, harmony, and fullness of life.

This is the love that we are called and commanded to try and share with our neighbors, despite the obstacles of finitude and our bondage to sin. The love commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves both empowers and demands we seek the well-being of everyone else, even to the point of denying one’s self to live in holy friendship with all of God’s creation.

Now this love is justice; but this love goes way beyond justice.

- This love, as described by the apostle Paul, is patient, kind, rejoices in truth, bears, believes, hopes, endures all things, and never ends. (1 Cor 13)

- This love holds to what is good, hates evil, offers mutual affection, outdoes each other in honoring the other, rejoices in hope, is patient in suffering, perseveres in prayer, contributes to the needs of others, extends hospitality to strangers, blesses persecutors, lives in harmony with one another, associates with the lowly, lives as peaceably as possible with all, feeds hungry enemies, overcomes evil with good, and does no wrong to a neighbor. (Rom 12 & 13)

- This love is filled with joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-management, and bear one another’s burdens. (Gal 6)

- This love involves humility, speaking truth, saying only what is useful for building up, forgiving others, and tries to maintain unity in the bond of peace. (Eph)

- This love means laying down our lives for one another in truth and action, not just words. (1Jn3)

- As we can see, the love we are called to give one another is not just a feeling; it is attitude and action, verbs not just nouns, an embedded way of life that infiltrates everything we are and do.

Will we fail at this perfect love? Yes. Thank God for grace-filled forgiveness that empowers us to try again and again.

And who are we called to love with this love? Our neighbors. All of our neighbors.

- Our neighbors who are black, who are indigenous, who are Asian, who are Latinix, who are white, who are any and every ethnic group and race that we humans have divided ourselves into.

- Who are we called to love with God’s love? Our neighbors who are Republican, Democrat, Libertarian, Independent, liberal, conservative, small government, big government, blue, red or some other socio-political shade.

- Who are we called to love with God’s love? Our neighbors who are male, female, transgender, gay, lesbian, bisexual, straight, queer, intersex.

- Our neighbors who are Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, indigenous spiritual, Sikh, and Buddhist.

- Our neighbors who are elderly, middle aged, young and child.

- Our neighbors who are differently-abled and those neighbors who are struggling with illness in mind, body, heart and spirit.

- Who are we called to love? All of these plus everyone I didn’t name as well as everyone and thing that does not fit into these human constructed identities, including all of creation – the animals, the plants, the land, water, and air.

And how do we love these? Let me count the ways... which are too many to name here.

But one easy way, right now in this moment, is to get vaccinated against the Covid-19 virus. This action shows love not only for yourself but also for your neighbor as we work together to stop this thing in its tracks, develop communal immunity, and come closer to fully loving each other.

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.



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.

May Serving group

Ione Bloom, chair
Rhonda Hanson
Larry Hanson
Mary Ann/Ron Conboy
Marge Farmer
Nancy Whitmer
Claudia/John Decker
Marge/Ken Peterson
Lori Hartford
Karen/Keith Hann
Wanda/Barney Helland
Kayla Bettise
Carol/ Bill Fortune



The Church Office has a new e-mail address.

peaceoffice1301@gmail.com

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 [Suspended]
Meets 2nd Saturday at 10:30 am
at Peace

Ruth Circle [Suspended]
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

May 15th

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





**May
2021**

1 Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assemblies of the Rocky Mountain, Northeastern Minnesota, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana, Pacifica and Greater Milwaukee synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

2 Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assemblies of the Oregon and Arkansas-Oklahoma synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

3 Throughout Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, give thanks for the rich heritage, gifts, cultures and contributions to our nation and church of our Asian and Pacific Islander neighbors and siblings in Christ. Ask God to bless and further the work and witness of ELCA Asian and Pacific Islander Ministries and the ELCA's Association of Asians and Pacific Islanders.

4 Pray for an end to the gun violence that has become commonplace in our country, and ask God for the wisdom, will and courage to advocate and work for laws and solutions that honor and protect God's gift of life, for the sake of our neighbors and communities.

5 Pray that we will be fearless, selfless and generous in our love and concern for one another because of the love God has revealed to us through Jesus Christ and the work of the Spirit within us.

6 Pray for leaders of outdoor ministries and congregational summer ministries as they ponder how to safely share the gospel, nurture faith, and serve children, youth and families this summer.

7 Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assemblies of the New Jersey and Sierra Pacific synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

8 Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

9 There is so much talk of love in the gospel message! Ask God to help us live fully the love we know in Jesus Christ, and pray that it will shine brightly in the world so all may know that God is love.

10 Ask God to grant an extra measure of faith, strength, hope, resourcefulness and resilience to those recovering and rebuilding after natural disasters and severe weather. Pray that we will listen carefully to them and respond helpfully to their immediate and long-term needs.

11 "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises," for God has done amazing and wonderful things!

12 Pray that we will not forget nations or regions where conflict, civil war or other turmoil spread violence, displacement, suffering and despair; pray that leaders will seek just and peaceful solutions and reconciliation and attend to people needing safety and relief. Ask the Spirit to help us respond to these crises, especially through supporting Lutheran Disaster Response, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

13 Ascension of Our Lord Give thanks that we have not been left alone in the world to fend for ourselves, but that Jesus gives us purpose and that the Spirit equips and guides us to participate in God's work in the world.

14 Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assemblies of the Northern Great Lakes, East-Central Wisconsin, Southwestern Washington and Saint Paul Area synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

15 Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assemblies of the Northwest Washington, North/West Lower Michigan and Southeast Michigan synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

16 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Set aside time each day this week to join Christians around the world as we pray for unity. Let this year's theme verse, from the Gospel of John, inspire you: "Abide in my love, and you will bear much fruit."



May
2021

17 Give thanks and praise to God that, through the Spirit, we find words to proclaim the good news of Jesus, that all who listen may believe and experience new life, joy and freedom in Christ.

18 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 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.

19 Ask God to renew our self-discipline, patience, empathy, and spirit of community concern and care as we continue to fight the spread of COVID-19 and respond to its impact.

20 Give thanks that, at some point in our lives, the Spirit opened our hearts and minds to the testimony and invitation of our siblings in Christ, that we might be baptized into a new life in Jesus, follow the ways and commandments of God and experience the joy of eternal life.

21 Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assemblies of the Northwestern Minnesota, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast and Southeastern Iowa synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

22 Pray for teachers and school staff who continue to adapt to changing education dynamics and requirements because of the pandemic. Ask God to grant them wisdom, creativity, patience, strength and renewed passion for their vocation as they serve students of all ages and abilities.

23 Day of Pentecost Praise God that the Spirit is present in our lives, helping us remain faithful, equipping us for our baptismal journey, inspiring us to share the gospel, filling us with love and compassion, and guiding us in everything we do.

24 Give thanks for the gifts, traditions, perspectives, insights and leaders of our global companions, which enrich our church, ministries and leaders.

25 The Spirit of God moves and works throughout the world, through every language, culture, human gift and life experience, to spread the good news of Jesus Christ and of God's amazing love for humankind. Praise God!

26 Pray that the Spirit will renew and equip us for the difficult work of understanding, bridging and mending the differences and schisms in our communities and nation. Pray that God will make us bold in our witness as people of faith, yet humble, empathetic and caring as we listen to and talk with one another.

27 Give thanks for the Spirit, which helps us when we are weak, sustains our faith when we are uncertain and pleads for us "with sighs too deep for words" when we aren't sure how to speak with God.

28 Mission Builders is a ministry related to the ELCA that provides opportunities for retired people to use their skills and gifts to help congregations, schools, camps and social ministry organizations construct or improve their facilities. Give thanks for Mission Builder volunteers who travel the country to serve the church, share their faith and inspire others to service.

29 As we return to restaurants and other places where we socialize around food, remember in prayer those who suffer hunger and food insecurity across our nation and world. Ask the Spirit to strengthen our commitment to end hunger, advocate for our neighbors in need and bring hope and relief.

30 Trinity Sunday Pray that God will help us live with and value the Holy Trinity and other mysteries of our faith that far exceed our ability to comprehend.

31 Memorial Day Remember, mourn and give thanks for men and women in the military who gave their lives for justice, peace and the freedom of our country and all nations.

Words from the Bishop

con't from pg. 9

I know from experience that getting vaccinated can involve a sacrifice – I got my second dose on Monday and it wiped me out to barely functional on Tuesday as the vaccine activated my body to empower itself to face the virus head on. But I've recovered – the miracle of the human body and the science that can support it never ceases to amaze me! Thanks be to God!

Getting vaccinated is one of the clearest ways we can express our love for neighbor and ourselves right now. So please get vaccinated. In this, you will truly be blessed and offer God's blessings to your neighbors!

In Christ, Bishop Laurie

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*God's Work.
Our hands.*

May 2021

