



Herald of Peace

August 2022

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. Seth Ramage
pastorrumage@gmail.com
office 252-5504 Home 406-298-2672

Office Manager: Dean Jenson
peaceoffice1301@gmail.com
252-5504

Youth Director: Vanessa Stieger
peacelcyouth@gmail.com
office 252-5504 cell 698-5576

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

Julie Draeger -
Wendy Goodheart -
Jeff Murray -
Tony Pecarina -
Jody Pierce -
Bob Peterson -
Dan Quanbeck -
Melissa Sider
Nate Sider -
Linda Strosky -
Dana Taylor -

Peace Office Hours

8am-12pm & 1pm-4pm

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.



"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."
(Phil. 1:6)

There's a lot going on in the world right now. We see conflicts erupt in our homes, our workplaces, the streets of our cities and the fields of our countryside, our political institutions, our congregations, and even in our own minds.

There are a number of ways humans try to find solace in the pain all this conflict causes. Some turn to over functioning by becoming workaholics or by allowing others to walk all over us. Others turn to substance use and abuse, hoping to numb themselves to the difficulties of their lives. Mental illness

ins on the rise, especially in youth- this is at least in part caused by the stress we are all carrying.

The suffering we experience in life is often referred to as "the problem of evil:" If God is omnipotent (all powerful), omnibenevolent (all loving), and omniscient (all knowing), then why do we suffer?" Even if we're

**HE
WHO BEGAN
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UNTIL THE DAY
OF
CHRIST
JESUS**
PHILIPPIANS 1:6

Prayer Concerns of those we prayed for July 2022

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

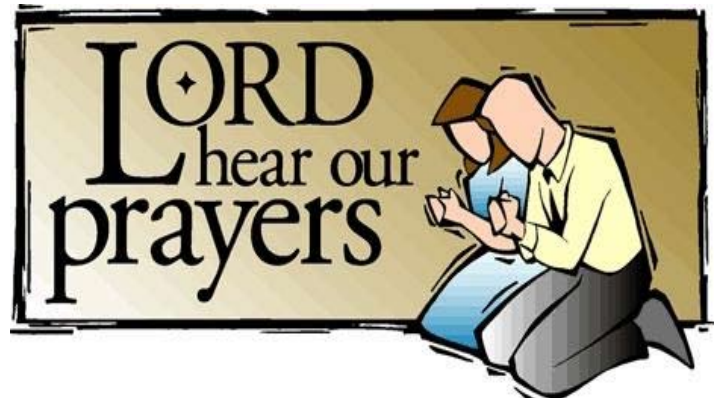
Sue Vigesaa
Carol Hauge
Geri Frasch
Marge Peterson
Ken Peterson
Leroy & Gertie Gross
Luella Ketterling
Lisa Grimsley
Ron Zech
Howard Albers
Hank Tungstall - healing

For illness or injuries .. of family and friends.

Ron Quanbeck - Danny Quanbeck's father - surgery
Gary Olson - Rick Olson's brother - hospice care
Judy Hartford - Lori Hartford's mother - hospice care
Darlene Thompson - cancer

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 Ione Bloom at 652-2441 or Lisa Grimsley (698-4121).

Renae Peterson - Ken Peterson's sister
Gary Boje - Darlene Thompson's brother , recovery
Denise- Bonnie Hovik Clausen's daughter in law
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
Bud Leuthold - friend of Joy Lindberg leukemia



With sincere gratitude

Peace Members

I want to thank you the church, Luke Fund and all involved in helping me during this rough time in my life.

Peace Lutheran Member

Your help is needed in getting information on all College students. The office needs mailing address's for college student. Please call Dean in the church office or leave information on office desk.



Congregational News

*From the
Church President*

At the July Council meeting, Detective Rob Miller came and talked about church safety. Starting in August, the doors will be locked after worship starts. Please come to the main doors of the church to enter. Although locking the doors is not ideal, as Pastor Seth said in worship we want to be proactive in our church safety. Peace,
Wendy Goodheart
Council President

Peace in the Park is Back!



Come join us for an evening of worship with food, and more!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 6 at 5 pm for Peace in the Park. We will worship out on the church lawn with our Country Gospel service. Following worship, we will have a picnic potluck. The church will provide hamburgers and hotdogs. We are asking you to bring a side or dessert to share. Feel free to bring your favorite lawn chair too. In case of inclement weather, we will move the activities indoors.

FILL THE BACKPACKS!

Once again, Family Service (3927 First Ave. S.) is asking for your help in filling Back-to School backpacks. This year the need is greater. They not only need help filling the backpacks but also unpacking the supplies and arranging on tables.

Please see the sign up sheets on the bulletin board. We will be in the food distribution building at the back of the complex. Sandals are not allowed in this area and it is chilly, so please bring a sweater or light jacket.

The dates and times

Monday August 1st & Tuesday August 2nd. 9am - noon

Wednesday August 10th – Friday August 12th 9am - noon

If you have any questions, please call Rick or Barb Olson at 406-671-3838.

This is a fun & worthwhile service opportunity for Peace and our Community.
PLEASE JOIN US!



Congregational News

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not aware of the theological framework of these questions, we engage the problem of evil when we ask questions like "why do bad things happen to good people," or "what did I do to deserve this?"

A sizable portion of our scriptures address these questions in one way or another. So do many sermons. These questions and the pain they often bring can lead to many ways of thinking about God. They can lead to fundamentalism or a total doing away with of faith altogether. Denial and deflection tend to factor into peoples' responses as well- it's not as bad as it seems, or it is bad, but it's someone else's fault.

If we're to be realistic, we can't deny that the global community is facing problems that feel unprecedented. We also can't deflect, as more often than not, the troubles we face are consequences of actions we willingly partake in. And we probably don't want to go the route of substance abuse or over functioning or failing mental health.

So how do we as people of God find purpose and hope in this world?

For me personally, I find meaning in the statement from Philemon above. I trust that God is not done working yet, that these are the birthing pains Jesus mentioned to his disciples. I find solace in knowing that often things get worse before they get better, that as God holds us in the refiner's fire, we will experience the heat of the flame, but be left more pure when the trial is over. And ultimately, the most important reality is that it is God who will bring God's good work to completion. Not you, not me, not a political party, not a nonprofit program. God will bring the fullness of the kingdom in God's time. We can certainly join in God's work, as we are called to do, but the final outcome is not up to us.

We are neither completely helpless, nor fully responsible. Yet, we are part of the body of Christ, working toward the salvation of the world. Let this bring comfort to us when we need comfort and challenge us when we need to be challenged. There is certainly difficulty in this world, but with God as our guide, we can bind each other's wounds and continue on the path toward the kingdom.

Peace,
Pastor Seth



Mission and Service News

Upcoming Mission & Service Opportunities to Watch For

It is amazing how fast the summer goes by. School is around the corner, and with that, there are many opportunities to lend your time and talents in August and early September.

Here are the Mission and Service Reaching Out opportunities for August and early September. Please consider praying for where you can personally serve others, and pray for those that will actively participate.



Fill Back-to-School Backpacks- Family Service will need our help to fill back-to-school backpacks. They provide everything, and you fill the backpacks using a simple list. Monday August 1st & Tuesday August 2nd. Wednesday August 10th – Friday August 12th Times: 9am - noon



Adopt-a-Teacher- Watch for more information to possibly assist teachers at Highland Elementary.



Summer Challenge Continues- Mission and Service is challenging congregational members twofold this summer. Please individually volunteer for your favorite cause. Also, please donate blood sometime this summer as there is a great need for donors. Only consider donating blood if it is personally safe to do so.



Salvation Army Sandwich Making/Peace Food Pantry Support- Join us on Rally Sunday, September 11 to make sandwiches for the Salvation Army once again. We would like to give everyone an opportunity to participate on Rally Sunday, even if you are unable to assist with making sandwiches. The Mission & Service Committee would like to support our food pantry with congregational donations of canned and nonperishable food items. Thank you for any support you can provide to either or both endeavors.



ELCA World Hunger's Global Farm Challenge- The overall goal is to raise \$525,000 to equip communities around the world and in the United States with livestock, seeds, tools, and training to turn a hungry season into a hopeful season. Together we can make a difference-creating healthier families, stronger economies, and a future filled with hope. To donate or learn more, please go to elca.org/globalfarmchallenge.

Committee Volunteer Opportunities

Please give some personal consideration to exploring serving on one of the many committees that help the congregation of Peace Lutheran Church meet its mission of **Rejoicing, Renewing, and Reaching Out**. Assistance is always appreciated in helping plan the education and numerous events that take place at Peace all year.

New volunteers are always welcome and needed for the Peace Food Pantry. Many do not realize how much work and dedication goes into providing this valuable service for our neighborhood.

Prayerfully consider where you might be able to lend your time and talents. The more individuals that are able to help make less work for all.

Community News



The (FUMC) First United Methodist church (located at 2800 4th ave. N). will be the only place for FP families to stay every evening, instead of going from one church to another each week. Peace Lutheran will be the first church to work at this static site on July 31-Aug. 6th. We have three days: Tues. Aug. 2nd, Wed. Aug.3rd, and Sat. Aug.6th We need volunteers to bring a cooked meal at 6:30 p.m. for one adult and three children ages 8,5,&4 and serve it and stay at the static site till 8 pm Also, Two volunteers to stay overnight from 8 pm till 6 am. Please enter the building at the 4th ave. entrance. We are going back to what we use to do before Covid. We are starting with one family. Thank you for your ministry to this family]



Family Promise Back to School Shopping

Peace is sponsoring 5 students who need Back to School clothing! In the Narthex area, you will find a board with items that the students need. Pick a couple items off of the board, buy those items, and bring them back to Peace by August 10th. If you have any questions,



Peace Quilters



The summer is about over and we have enjoyed seeing several ladies who are busy with other things in the winter so cannot meet with us. We have made a good start on next years quilt count.

We will start the regular year on Wednesday, September 7th at 9:00 AM. We have a need for crochet thread; white, navy, green. blue, or any color really. Thanks for the materials everyone donates to us. They make many beautiful quilts for LWR.

Worship News

August Worship Themes

We continue to spend time in Luke's Gospel.

August 6th & 7th

Ninth Weekend after Pentecost

Readings: Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 33:12-22; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; **Luke 12:32-40**

Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part in today's assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

Country Gospel

August 13th & 14th

Tenth Weekend after Pentecost

Readings: Jeremiah 23:23-29; Psalm 82; Hebrews 11:29-12:2; **Luke 12:49-56**

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great "cloud of witnesses." In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

ELW Setting #3

August 20th & 21st

Eleventh Weekend after Pentecost

Readings: Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 103:1-8; Hebrews 12:18-29; **Luke 13:10-17**

Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.

ELW Setting #8

August 27th & 28th

Twelfth Weekend after Pentecost

Readings: Proverbs 25:6-7; Psalm 112; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; **Luke 14:1, 7-14**

To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind is to reflect God's mercy in responding to one's neighbor. That mercy found its most profound expression in the "gospel that has come to you"—namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That gospel mercy comes to us again today: at the font, at the table, and from the pulpit. It is very near to you.

ELW Setting #10

Mid-Week Worship Service at Peace!!!

Everyone is invited to attend or live stream

Compline (night prayer) service

The Second Wednesday of the month

August 10th 7:00 pm

Holden Evening Prayer Service

The Fourth Wednesday of the month

August 24th 7:00 pm

**Holden
Evening
Prayer**

Marty Haugen



*Compline Worship
Service*

Education and Youth News

Youth Group

Peace Pals and Youth Group are back to our regular schedules!

Youth Group

Peace Pals (Elementary)

5:30-6:30 PM

Community Meal

6:30-7:00 PM

Peace Youth (MS & HS)

7:00-8:30 PM

Wednesday Night Meals

Every Wednesday, 6:30 PM

We are excited to announce that Wednesday night meals are back!

That means we are looking for Chefs! If you are interested in cooking, please give Vanessa a call so we can work on a schedule!

Here's a list of meals that may or may not happen on this month's Wednesday nights. These meals are just a guideline. It's always the Chef's choice!

August 3rd- Spaghetti and Meatballs

August 10th- Walking Tacos

August 17th- Pizza

August 24th- Men's Breakfast Night!

August 31st- Burgers and Hot Dogs

Youth Night!

August 9th, 6:00 PM

We are planning a fun activities night either to the Trampoline Park or to the movies. Please let Vanessa know if you are interested! All kids are invited.

Women's Retreat

Flathead Bible Camp

September 23rd-25th

"The Practice of Dwelling in the Word"

With Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger

We are planning on bringing a crew of women up from Peace! Let Vanessa know if you are interested. See page 9 for more information

Blessing of the Backpacks

August 21st

How is it almost time to go back to school? Summer went so fast! We are doing Blessing of the Backpacks on August 21st! We will send the students and teachers of Peace Lutheran back to school with our prayers and blessings! Students and Educators are welcome to bring their backpacks to the service to be blessed!



Halloween Carnival

The Education and Youth Committee is in the early stages of planning this year's Halloween Carnival. We are looking for candy or small trinkets/toys for our Trunk or Treat portion of the carnival. If you are willing to donate, you can drop off items at Vanessa's office! We are excited about another great event!



Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger grew up in the Bozeman area, and is a graduate of Pacific Lutheran University and Luther Seminary. Since being ordained in 1989, she has served congregations in MN and across Montana. Peggy was called to serve as the Director for Evangelical Mission of the Montana Synod in 2017, working to help equip leaders for ministry. She values relationships and works to live out the definition of Congregational Vitality in the ELCA to help congregations be "communities of Jesus where there are life-changing relationships with God, one another and the world." Peggy and her husband Steve are parents of adult sons: Trevor and Ethan. She is a weaver, enjoys her dog, Sheena, live theater, and travel.

Women's Retreat

"The Practice of Dwelling in the Word"

With Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger

Friday, September 23 - Sunday, September 25, 2022

\$175/person

Saturday only: \$135

Non-refundable \$75 deposit due by September 9th, 2022

Join us for a weekend of fun and relaxation!

Enjoy a weekend at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp full of fellowship, fun, great food, and relaxation. Experience insightful sessions with Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger, and enjoy time for worship, pottery, nature walks, yoga on the docks, and more.



Retreat begins with dinner at 6:15pm on Friday (check-in is from 5-6pm) and ends at 11am on Sunday.
CEU credits available through Northern Rockies Institute of Theology (NRIT). Sorry, no childcare provided.

2022 REGISTRATION

Women's Retreat // September 23-25, 2022

Name: _____ Attending full weekend? _____ Sat. Only? _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____ Roommate Request: _____

Please list any dietary restrictions, severe allergies or housing needs: _____

Registration & \$75 non-refundable deposit due by September 9th, 2022

Register online at flbc.net, email office@flbc.net, or mail to FLBC 603 S Main St., Kalispell, MT 59901

A list of what to bring, a schedule and additional documents will be sent to you prior to the retreat.



Community News

Words from the Bishop:

“All are Really Welcome”

“An argument arose among [the disciples] as to which one of them was the greatest. But Jesus, aware of their inner thoughts, took a little child and put it by his side, and said to them, ‘Whoever welcomes this child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me; for the least among all of you is the greatest.’”
Luke 9:46-48

“All are welcome!” That’s what many signs in front of our churches or statements across our bulletins announce. All are welcome! But do we really mean “all”? And what does it mean to welcome all these “alls”?

The lives of a group of people who often have not been welcomed in our churches have been recognized and celebrated by our society, communities and churches as human beings worthy of dignity and respect. These people often self-identify by using one or more of a group of letters, LGBTQIA+, which stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, plus others who don’t really fit into these categories but don’t fall into a societal norm either.

Sadly, LGBTQIA+ people have not been and still are not regularly welcomed or accepted by the church that claims to be the body of Christ. Worse yet, God’s name and Word have been used by those calling themselves Christian to do horrible damage to LGBTQIA+ people in their bodies, spirits, hearts, and minds. In other words, “All” have not been welcomed; only some.

Merriam-Webster’s dictionary defines “all” as the whole amount of or every member of. Nothing is excluded when we use the word all. So when we use the word “all,” we have to mean “all” in our words, actions, even thoughts. All means everyone. And since God’s welcome into Christ’s body is without condition, so must the church’s welcome be to all, everyone, even in the midst of our discomfort or fears.

As Jesus himself proclaims, when we welcome those whom the world has often considered to be the least in society, we welcome Christ himself into our places, spaces and lives to be loved, accepted



Montana Synod

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

and cared for by the body of Christ.

It is so easy to exclude or dehumanize or demonize those who are different or those we don’t understand. That is the way of the world without the love of God’s welcome in it. But followers of Christ are called to welcome even in the midst of not understanding -- listening to, learning from, accepting, loving and supporting all who are different as human beings created in the image of God and as beloved children of God marked by Christ’s cross forever.

Welcoming LGBTQIA+ folks into our communities means putting aside our fears, anxieties and ignorance and instead opening our hearts to the gifts, skills and experience these children of God bring into our lives. It’s about remembering to walk humbly with God, never putting ourselves in God’s place to condemn but instead exhorting ourselves to love and learn from our neighbors, even those who may live their lives differently. It’s about “all of us being one in Christ,” never putting worldly identities ahead of the identity each of us has been clothed with in our baptism into Christ. (Gal 27-28)

And so I invite you to practice welcoming LGBTQIA+ people into your communities of Christ. Because the church has so long struggled with accepting LGBTQIA+ people, this is a hard practice for congregations and their members to enter into. Maybe a good place to start is by confessing our weakness in welcoming all of God’s “alls” and by repenting, changing our direction toward the love Christ calls us to embody. Maybe it’s time to explore becoming a “Reconciling in Christ” congregation. (<https://www.reconcilingworks.org>)

Or maybe we begin simply by saying to a LGBTQIA+ person, “God loves you and so do I.” For as Paul reminds us all in Romans 8:39, “There is nothing in all of creation that can separate you from God’s love in Christ Jesus.”

May God bless you with the Spirit’s infallible love. And please, let us celebrate this nation’s birth safely!

Bishop Laurie

Community News

Christikon Clips

August 2022

As you are reading this clip, we are readying for the last sessions of our 71st season. We hosted over 550 campers so far this season including youth, families, adults and at risk youth. We have retreats schedule through August.



Our summer staff will be completing their stay with us and will soon be heading back to their lives outside of Christikon.

We look forward to our congregational and family retreats scheduled this fall. A few retreat times are still available. Call Kerry in the office and reserve a time.

We continue to ask for your prayers for those traveling to camp, our staff, and campers.

Blessings to all of you who support Christikon with prayer, time, skills, and financially. We are grateful! Please visit <https://christikon.org/donate-to-christikon/> and continue your support.

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

Family Promise Hiring Staff – FPYV is looking for Day Center Assistant for \$15.00 per hour. 9-6PM M-F. The Day Center Assistant will be driving the families to the FPYV Static site. They are also hiring a part time Driver also at \$15.00 per hour. The driver will pick up families at 6:00 AM for a couple of hours in the morning and on the weekend. See website (lisa@fpyv.org) or call Michael 406-252-8909

FPYV is starting a Capital Campaign in August to raise money for the Family Promise Housing Expansion. The Campaign will help ramp up the fundraising so we can buy more Transitional Housing Apartments. They need 8+ apartments. The goal is 1.2 Million total

Five churches have left FP with hosting meals, etc. They need help. If you would like to donate a meal on a particular evening, there is a website you can use to see which nights they need help. It is casemanageer@fpyv.org. They are also looking for a club or group of people that would take a week of providing meals, etc to replace the churches that left.

Family Promise has a 85% or higher success rate of getting families on their own and sustaining themselves. They can be proud of this. You can be proud too because you at Peace help make this happen. God Bless you all for your service. Deb sider 406-98-9861



Congregational News



Church E-mail Addresses

Pastor Seth

pastorrumage@gmail.com

Church Office

peaceoffice@bresnan.net

Youth Director

peacelcyouth@gmail.com

Call Committee

peacecallcom@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.

August Serving group

Deb Sider, chair

Chuck Sider

Rita/Wayne Wyman

Linda/Eddie Popp

Tina/Dana Taylor

June/Dean Jenson

Jody Pierce

Tina Fritz

Karen/John Teeling

Marlene/Khyl Thomson



**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

Meets second Tuesday at 11:30 am



Men's Breakfast and Bible Study

Meets every

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

Questions about Council Activities? If

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

President

Vice-President

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES**

EARLY!

RE M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS**

August 19th

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



Peace Lutheran Church Council

President - Wendy Goodheart

Vice President - Julie Draeger

Secretary - Linda Strosky

Julie Draeger - Executive, Worship

Wendy Goodheart - Executive, Worship

Jeff Murray - Abundant Life

Tony Pecarina - Property

Jody Pierce - Education/Youth

Bob Peterson - Abundant Life

Dan Quanbeck - Abundant Life

Melissa Sider - Education/Youth

Nate Sider - Education/Youth

Linda Strosky - Mission & Service

Dana Taylor - Congregational Life

Boards/Committees

St. John's Ministries

Rhonda Sappington

Holli Miller

Christikon

Mike Brown

Erl Barsness

Lois Gorseth

Lutheran Center

Kay Rossow

Ione Bloom

Endowment Trustee

Ed Popp

Molly Johnson

Bernie Mason

Rhonda Hanson

Dean Welliever

Nominating Committee

Connie Hausauer

Deb Sider

Dave Draeger

Robin Felton

Nancy Taylor



August 2022

1 Pray for musicians and worship leaders as they develop and broaden their skills and explore existing and new worship resources at the Augsburg Fortress Summer Music Clinics.

2 Pray that we will look to God's wisdom as we ponder the world, our purpose in life and how we might live with one another in global community.

3 Give thanks to God for the ELCA International Leadership Development Program, which provides financial support for the short- and long-term academic training of established and emerging leaders in global companion churches and institutions.

4 "Now you must get rid of all such things — anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another" (Colossians 3:8-9a). Give thanks that, through our baptism and the ceaseless work of the Spirit, we are being transformed in every way to reflect the image of God in which we were created.

5 Pray for the leadership, wisdom and well-being of our presiding bishop, Elizabeth A. Eaton, as we and our siblings in Christ try to unify this church in a world of ever-evolving complexity, conflict and division.

6 Give thanks for the chance to combat hunger around the world through ELCA World Hunger's Global Farm Challenge, and for the generous donors matching our gifts to reach the fundraising goal of \$525,000.

7 Praise God that we find our true treasure in God's love and mercy given through Jesus Christ, a relationship that endures for all eternity.

8 Pray for voting members, leaders, guests and staff of the churchwide organization participating in the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Columbus, Ohio. Ask the Spirit to guide and inspire their decision-making and spiritual discernment together on behalf of the entire church and to strengthen and unify them for doing God's work in the world.

9 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples There are over 476 million Indigenous people living in 90 countries around the world. They have unique languages, traditions, cultures, knowledge systems, worldviews and systems for governing themselves. Pray that we will value them as children of God; respect their rights, freedoms, dignity and lands;

and ensure their right to participate fully in political and economic activities. With repentant hearts, ask God's forgiveness for our harmful and unjust actions and policies throughout history, for taking what was not ours, and for forcing our own language, culture, religious beliefs, worldview and authority upon Indigenous peoples. Pray that we will work to rectify injustices and inequities, develop new relationships of trust and respect, and do the work necessary for reconciliation and healing.

10 Ask the Spirit to bolster us in praying for worldwide peace and reconciliation and in supporting people, ministries and organizations committed to making peace, providing relief, bearing hope and defending the vulnerable.

11 Pray that God will equip, inspire and sustain new synod bishops for serving in diverse contexts across the ELCA, and pray that they will find support, care and encouragement for their ministry and personal lives.

12 International Youth Day Give thanks for the gifts, wisdom and perspectives of youth around the world, and remember in prayer young people who live in areas of war and conflict, suffer poverty and hunger, long for educational opportunities, provide care for their siblings and parents, and live in hope for a better future.

13 Remember in prayer and give thanks for nurses, who use their gifts and skills in global mission, responding to disasters and serving their communities. Pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Parish Nurse Association and its work supporting and equipping parish nurses, helping congregations develop new health ministries and encouraging people to pursue nursing as a vocation.

14 Followers of Christ can suffer criticism and opposition. Ask God for courage, boldness and patience to share the gospel and serve our neighbors in need; pray that, when people oppose or criticize us, the Spirit will give us the confidence to respond with respect, love and humility.

15 Give thanks to God that, following a two-year pause due to COVID-19, Young Adults in Global Mission will send 25 new volunteers into the world to serve alongside our global companions and churches.

16 Ask God to help us discern between those who speak and teach God's word faithfully and those who deceive others by preaching and prophesying for personal gain, recognition or power.



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17 Give thanks for the chance to enjoy the awe and beauty of God's creation in wilderness areas and city, state and national parks. Pray that, working together, we will make these treasures more accessible to people of all ages, abilities and economic circumstances.

18 Remember and give thanks for people now and throughout history who have inspired and strengthened our faith, helped us to understand God's word and ways, encouraged our service and witness in the world, and influenced our lives and actions through their fearless pursuit of justice and healing for all people.

19 Give thanks for the gifts, leadership, service and generosity of the laity of our church, who respond to God's call to serve our communities of faith, our society and our world.

20 Pray for companions and care providers who help people deal with illness, disability or the demands of aging. Ask that they will find the spiritual, physical and emotional strength necessary for their work, and that they will be renewed by rest, sabbath, self-care and the support they receive from others.

21 Ask God for forgiveness when, intentionally or not, we have discouraged total inclusion and involvement of all people in the church or society. Pray for an open mind and a willingness to listen to the stories and needs of those who are excluded or feel unwelcome; ask the Spirit to unite us in changing our practices, traditions, facilities and institutions to remove all barriers and deterrents to full inclusion and participation.

22 Pray for the young people gathering from a variety of backgrounds, churches and geographic regions for the World Council of Churches Stewards Program assembly in Germany. Ask God to bless their time together, nurture ecumenical unity and understanding, and inspire them to bring their experiences and ecumenical enthusiasm back home to their local contexts.

23 Give thanks for the ministry of the Christian Education Network of the ELCA, which supports and encourages professional and volunteer leaders who advance lifelong faith-formation ministries through congregations and partner organizations.

24 Express awe, reverence and thanks for the new covenant God has made with humanity and sealed in Jesus Christ, an enduring covenant of unconditional love, forgiveness and restoration of our relationship with God.

25 Pray for students beginning the new school year, especially those feeling uncertain, hesitant, insecure or fearful. Ask the Spirit for opportunities to care for students with tutoring, mentoring, counseling, family support and safe programs before and after school.

26 "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love" (Psalm 103:8). Bless the Lord and give thanks!

27 The end of summer is a time of transition for many people in seasonal jobs. Pray that they will be appreciated for their skills and service, find employment and housing, have consistent and affordable access to insurance and health care, and be welcomed and supported by communities and congregations wherever they go.

28 Pray that we might not rate ourselves above others because of their life circumstances, race, ability, appearance, education, income, religion, social status or political affiliation. Ask the Spirit to fill us with respect, thoughtfulness and compassion for our neighbor, no matter who they are.

29 Remember in prayer teachers, classroom assistants, student teachers, counselors, coaches, school staff and school administrators. Ask the Spirit to sustain their enthusiasm and inspire their wisdom, creativity, patience and concern for students and their parents.

30 Paul's instructions to the Hebrews couldn't be more timely: "Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it" (Hebrews 13:1-2). Pray that we will turn to Scripture and the wisdom shared by our communities of faith for guidance on how to live and serve our neighbors in these times of deep division and conflict.

31 Pray that the fall programs and community ministries of our congregations will flourish, welcome guests, inspire faith, spread the gospel, respond to our neighbors' needs and equip people for doing God's work in the world.

Peace Lutheran Church

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Our hands.*

August 2022

