



# Herald of Peace

November 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 Rumage  
[pastorrumage@gmail.com](mailto:pastorrumage@gmail.com)  
office 252-5504 Home 406-298-2672

Office Manager: Dean Jenson  
[peaceoffice1301@gmail.com](mailto:peaceoffice1301@gmail.com)  
252-5504

Youth Director: Vanessa Stieger  
[peacelcyouth@gmail.com](mailto: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 -

### **Peace Office Hours**

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

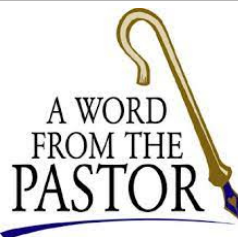
### **Worship Schedule**

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.



I've been thinking a lot about Our new member welcome at the end of October. For a lot of people in my generation (and younger), the idea of being a member in an organization is not as appealing as it has been for our elders. I'd like to share a few of my thoughts on congregational membership and why it is important.

To start, we need to understand that declining (or static) membership is not only a church issue. It can feel that way sometimes, especially when we look around at other congregations that seem to be growing exponentially. It can be difficult to find the statistics at times, but if you look at any organization that utilizes volunteers or requires membership to participate, you will find that the average age of members and volunteers has slowly crept up over the years. Peace is lucky in that we have seen some recent growth in our membership and volunteer base, but we are still experiencing the same dynamics as other volunteer organizations.

*thankful  
AND  
blessed*

## ***Prayer Concerns of those we prayed for October 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

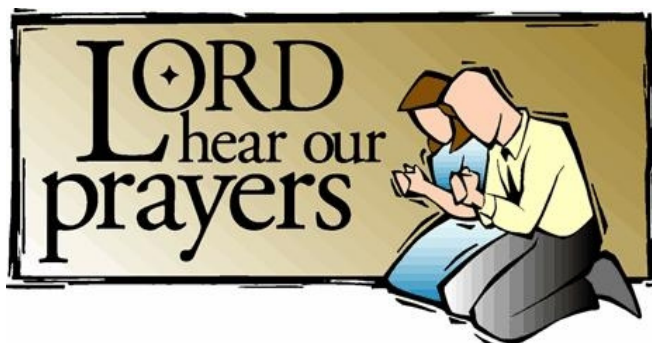
President Joe Biden (requested by Peace member)  
Christine & Scotty Soileau – Quantico, VA. (member of Peace)

### **For illness or injuries .. of members**

Larry Rossow  
Christian Pates  
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.**

Carrie – friend of Jo Pates, cancer returned  
Taryn Befinzi - Ken Peterson's niece  
Carol – Lois Gorseth's sister, cancer treatment



**P**rayer 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 (656-8113).

Kyler – Mike Brown relative, cancer  
Kelly Miller -Pastor Kim Wilker's daughter cancer  
Ron Quanbeck - Danny Quanbeck's father - surgery  
Gary Olson - Rick Olson's brother - hospice care  
Darlene Thompson - cancer  
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

### **For those grieving ..**

Joan & Mike Brown on the death of Joan's father  
Harvey Watts



### **Election Day Prayer**

*Everlasting God, source of all liberty, before whom every earthly ruler must bow and bend the knee, we lay our nation before you as we prepare for an election. Breathe upon us your Spirit of wisdom and discernment. Amen.*

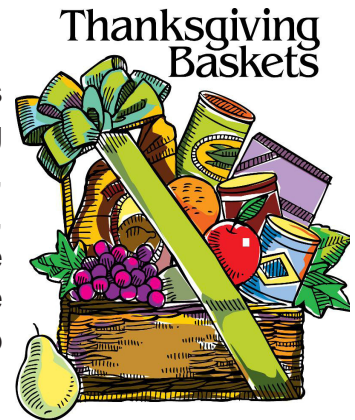


## Congregational News

### Happy Thanksgiving to our neighbors...

Once again we will make Thanksgiving baskets for 16 neighborhood families in need. The signup sheet is posted for the needed items.....turkeys, roasting pans, stuffing, bags of potatoes, Bisquick, butter, pumpkin pies, Cool Whip, and cans of green beans, corn, sweet potatoes, cream of mushroom soup, canned tomatoes, cranberry relish and French fried onions. Please have your donations at church by Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. You may also donate funds by November 13<sup>th</sup> for the purchase of items. If you would like to help deliver meals on Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> please sign up for that.

Thank you for your generosity.



### Consecration Celebration



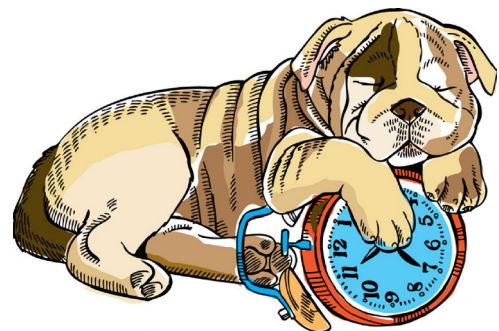
On Sunday, November 13th, following worship, everyone is invited to the Consecration Brunch in the Fellowship Hall. The guest speaker is Rachel Simonson, from St John's United. Roni Sider will cater the meal. A free will offering will be received to support St John's United. Please plan to attend this special occasion where we will remember that all we have belongs to God, and we therefore consecrate our lives for the work of His Church.



### All Saints weekend

November 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>

We will again honor our saints with banners at both services.



Daylight-Saving Time Ends  
November 6th



## Congregational News

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There are a number of factors at play that could explain the decline in volunteers across our country. We don't have the space here to explore them all, but if you are interested in knowing more, a study from the University of Maryland can give you more information.

<https://dogood.umd.edu/sites/default/files/2019-07/Where%20Are%20Americas%20Volunteers%20Research%20Brief%20Nov%202018.pdf>

The main points I noticed in this study, that track with my experience as a pastor and someone who has helped coordinate volunteers in different capacities, include education level, socioeconomic status, connection to community, and availability of community resources. We live in a society where public education is being defunded and devalued, where people are working harder for less pay and benefits, where relationships with neighbors and even extended family members have become less important, and where community nonprofits and resource services are struggling to keep their programs running. It's not just one reason that fewer people are volunteering and becoming members in organizations, but many factors, often out of the individual's control.

Whether that gives you comfort or deeper concern, at least know this: the church is not the only institution struggling to grow and provide services. What may give you more comfort is to know that on the spectrum of congregations in the ELCA, Peace is doing very well with continuing ministries and providing for its community, even with the many challenges the church, society, and individuals face, especially when factoring in all the adjustments we have had to make around COVID.

That all being said, I still think there is great value in officially becoming a member of a congregation. Certainly, people can attend worship, hear the word of God, receive the sacraments, and volunteer with a congregation without becoming a member. All the rights that members enjoy in a congregation are available just as fully to nonmembers. The difference comes down to responsibilities. Members in congregations have a responsibility to the organization to further its mission. Through voting at congregational meetings, participating as council and committee members, giving tithes and offerings, volunteering to further the cause of God's word in the world, members are able to steer a congregation in the direction they feel God is calling it.

Membership may seem outdated in today's world, but in the church, it is one more way to actively live out the faith God has given us. For those who are members, thank you for your continued service to this congregation and to God. Welcome to the new members who recently. To those who are not yet members, or have been on the fence about membership, please prayerfully consider joining the congregation and the ministry of this place.

Peace,  
Pastor Seth

## Mission and Service News

### Upcoming Mission & Service Opportunities to Watch For

*The holiday season is right around the corner. As we get busy planning, eating and shopping, let us not forget about those in need.*

*Here is the Mission and Service **Reaching Out** opportunities for November.*



**Thanksgiving Baskets-** Stay tuned for donation and volunteer opportunities as we build Thanksgiving baskets again this year. Our goal will be 16 baskets. Basket supplies and monetary donations will be appreciated. The committee agreed that any extra monetary donations above what is needed for the basket supplies will go towards gas cards for the recipients.

#### Committee Volunteer Opportunities

*As a reminder, the Mission & Service Committee meets every odd numbered month. Meetings are held at the church at 12:30 p.m. and typically last no longer than 30-45 minutes. Other committees, including the **Peace Food Pantry**, are also in need of those who would like to serve. Please give thought where you can lend your talents, and consider joining one of the many service committees of Peace Lutheran.*

*As we get closer to holidays, prayerfully consider where you might be of service to others. There are an unlimited number of volunteer opportunities in our community. God bless!*



### *For the Fruit of All Creation*

*For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.  
For these gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God.  
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,  
    silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.  
In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.  
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.  
In our worldwide task of caring  
    for the hungry and despairing,  
In the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.*

(ELW #679)



**God blesses us to share with others.**

Celebrate Thanksgiving with a gift to our Food Pantry, the Thanksgiving baskets, Lutheran World Relief or ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

And remember to think about Alternative Giving gifts for Christmas.

## Congregational News

**Lutefisk Dinner:** We had another very successful Lutefisk dinner that our guests enjoyed so much. Thank you, thank you to our good and faithful servants who faithfully and diligently worked this year. We simply couldn't put on this event without you. Thank you to the youth. You did a super job this year. This is a great gift we give to the outside community. We can not do it without the help of the many volunteers.



### Peace Quilters



Wednesday mornings are a very busy place!!

We have 8 to 10 ladies working on the many stages of

making LWR quilts. Laying out squares, sewing squares into quilt tops, putting the quilt together with a top, filler and a back, then it is tied. The finishing step is sewing the border. Most mornings we make four quilts. We have coffee break about 10:30. Everyone is welcome to join us.

*"Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer. And let faith be the bridge you build to overcome evil and welcome good."*

— Maya Angelou, Celebrations:  
Rituals of Peace and Prayer



### MSU BOBCATS VS UM GRIZZLIES

November 19<sup>th</sup>

Are you a Cat or Griz fan? Donate to the Scholarship Fund by picking your favorite team.

Grizzly And Bobcat Buckets Will Be Available For Donations

Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup>.

All donations go to the Youth Scholarship Fund



### 13th Street Thanksgiving Worship

On November 20th at 3pm we will gather at First Presbyterian Church for our 13th Street Churches Thanksgiving service.

If you would like to sing in the choir please come at 2pm for rehearsal.



## Worship News

### November Worship Themes

We begin the month with All Saints weekend. At the end of November, we begin a new Lectionary year with the first weekend in Advent

**November 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>**

All Saints Weekend

**Readings:** Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18; Psalm 149; Ephesians 1:11-23; **Luke 6:20-31**

*In holy baptism God makes saints out of sinners. In holy communion God forgives the sins of all the saints. In worship today we give thanks for all the saints "who from their labors rest." In the same breath we petition our God for the strength to hear and to heed the admonitions of Jesus in today's gospel. Sealed by the Spirit and sustained by the Savior's body and blood, we live with joy as God gives us breath, to the praise of God's glory.*

**ELW Setting #3**

**November 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>**

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

**Readings:** Malachi 4:1-2a; Psalm 98; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; **Luke 21:5-19**

*The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today's texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the meantime. The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: "Do not be weary in doing what is right."*

**ELW Setting #4**

**November 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>**

Christ the King Weekend

**Readings:** Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 46; Colossians 1:11-20; **Luke 23:33-43**

*Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise.*

**ELW Setting #8**

**November 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>**

First Weekend of Advent

**Readings:** Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; **Matthew 24:36-44**

*The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.*

### Mid-Week Worship Service



Compline Worship  
Service

Everyone is invited to  
attend or live stream  
Compline (night prayer)  
service  
The Second Wednesday of  
the month  
November 9<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm

### Advent is Coming

Our season of preparation for the birth of Jesus is almost here. This year, the First weekend of Advent actually falls within the month of November, on Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>. Wednesday Night Advent worship with Holden Evening Prayer begins Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> at 7pm



First Sunday of Advent

## Education and Youth News

### Wednesday Night Activities

#### Youth Group Every Wednesday

Peace Pals (Elementary)

5:30-6:30 PM

Peace Youth (MS & HS)

7:00-8:30 PM

Community Meal (All are invited!)

6:30-7:00 PM

***No Wednesday Night Activities on  
Wednesday, November 23rd.***

### ***A Note from Vanessa Halloween Carnival***

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Halloween Carnival a success. It is one of my favorite events that we get to do and it would not be possible without the help of all of you. Next year, we'll do it all again!

Thank you,  
Vanessa



### **Christmas Program**

Christmas Program Rehearsals will begin on November 13<sup>th</sup>! All kids are encouraged to be a part of this. We can't wait to put on another awesome show! The program will be recorded and edited together by Vanessa.

### Sunday School To Go!

This month our theme is Giving Thanks to God. We are learning about the story of the 10 Lepers (Luke 17: 11-19) and why it is important to thank God for all the things we have.

If you're interested in getting a Sunday School To Go bag, please let Vanessa know!

### Youth Board Activity

One of the activities in this month's Sunday School bag is to write on a leaf what you are thankful for. Throughout November, we will collect these leaves and put them on a tree on the Youth Bulletin Board. We are asking you to participate in this as well!



### **Brawl of the Wild Scholarship Fundraiser**

The Scholarship fundraiser is back! Every year the Montana College Football fans battle it out to see who can raise more money for our College Scholarship fund. The annual Cat/Griz football game will take place on November 19<sup>th</sup>. You will have a chance to vote for your favorite team November 5<sup>th</sup> through November 13<sup>th</sup>!





## Community News

### Christikon Clips

Our summer calendar is set and on our website ([christikon.org](http://christikon.org)). If you have questions about the 2023 season or would like to register, give us a call or do so online. It was a powerful summer of ministry this year, and we look forward to welcoming you to camp in the new year.



**The 2022 Annual Meeting is Sunday November 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm.** We'll tell stories from the summer and share plans for the 2023 season, construction, and much more. We will be meeting in person at Big Timber Lutheran Church. For those who cannot attend we will have a Zoom link available which we will send to your congregational delegates and pastors.

We continue to hold you in prayer as together we navigate these uncertain times. We also trust in, and give thanks for, a God who promises to never let us go, no matter what life throws our way. May God bless you and yours as we move through fall and towards the holiday season and the new year.

**Thank you as always for all the ways you support Christikon**

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

### Van Drivers Needed!

Are you interested in a different way to serve the people of Peace Lutheran Church? Consider being a van driver! We need drivers who are available on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights- to pick up students, kids, and older adults who are unable to bring themselves to worship and youth events.

All you need to participate is a valid drivers license and a clean driving record over the past three years. Please reach out to VANessa Steiger, either by calling the church office at 406-252-5504, or by emailing her at [peaceleyouth@gmail.com](mailto:peaceleyouth@gmail.com).

Thank you for your willingness to serve Peace Lutheran and the surrounding community as we get this new and exciting ministry off the ground!



*"Thanksgiving Day is a jewel, to set in the hearts of honest men; but be careful that you do not take the day, and leave out the gratitude.*

*E. P. Powell*



**"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever..."**

*Psalm 107:1*

## Congregational News



### Church E-mail Addresses

Pastor Seth

[pastorrumage@gmail.com](mailto:pastorrumage@gmail.com)

### Church Office

[peaceoffice@bresnan.net](mailto:peaceoffice@bresnan.net)

### Youth Director

[peacelcyouth@gmail.com](mailto:peacelcyouth@gmail.com)

### Call Committee

[peacecallcom@gmail.com](mailto:peacecallcom@gmail.com)

### Check out the web site:

[peacelutheranbillings.com](http://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.

### November Serving group

Sharon Schatzke, chair

Roger Schatzke

Gerri /Jim Frasch

Muriel/Marlin Overstreet

Karen/Gary Broeder

Connie Hausauer

Marva Overstreet

Linda/Paul Strosky

Laura/Danny Quanbeck

Jeff Murray

Sue/Ben Vigesaa



**The Church Office has a new e-mail address.**

[peaceoffice1301@gmail.com](mailto:peaceoffice1301@gmail.com)

## Congregational News

### 2022 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*

### Peace Lutheran Church Council

President - Wendy Goodheart

Vice President - Julie Draeger

Secretary - Linda Strosky

Julie Draeger - Executive, Worship

Wendy Goodheart - Executive, Worship

Jeff Murray - Congregational Life

Tony Pecarina - Property

Jody Pierce - Education/Youth

Bob Peterson - Abundant Life

Dan Quanbeck - Abundant Life

Melissa Sider - Congregational Life

Nate Sider - Education/Youth

Linda Strosky - Mission & Service



### 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 - Wendy Goodheart

Vice-President - Julie Draeger

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN  
YOUR ARTICLES  
EARLY!**

RE M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR  
NEWSLETTER  
ARTICLES IS  
November 17th**

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



### 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



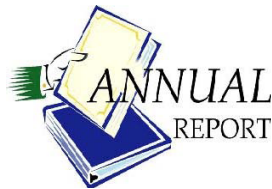
## Congregational News

**Everyone is invited** Thursdays at 9 am for our mid-week / mid-morning Bible study. Beginning November 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Bible study will be exploring the letters of John 1-3. Please consider joining at 9 am—just bring yourself and your Bible, study books will be provided.



**Martha circle Ladies** join us as we have resumed our bible study of Hebrews. We will meet November 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall. Looking forward to seeing you all. Ann Barsness

**In order** to complete 2021 Annual Report all those wishing to submit items must submit them by December 8th. Please submit through E-mail ([peaceoffice1301@gmail.com](mailto:peaceoffice1301@gmail.com)) or typed to be scanned to the church office. Thank You Dean Jenson



### Family Promise Hosting

Peace Lutheran is hosting the Family Promise families next week! We are still in need of evening hosts on November 1 and 5. We need a meal preparer, evening host, and overnight host for November 2. If you are interested or have questions, please see the board at the top of the stairs outside the sanctuary, or speak with Pastor Seth, Ann Barsness, or Deb Sider.



### REFRESHMENTS

Sunday morning fellowship returns with coffee hour following worship.

If you would like to host the donut/muffins, please sign-up in the binder on the table in the narthex. The donation is approximately \$25.00 per week.



Monthly serving committees will be responsible for setting up and serving the refreshments.

#### NOVEMBER SERVING COMMITTEE:

Sharon Schatzke, chair  
Roger Schatzke  
Geri & Jim Frasch  
Muriel/Marlin Overstreet  
Karen/Gary Broeder  
Connie Hausauer  
Marva Overstreet  
Linda/Paul Strosky  
Laura/Danny Quanbeck  
Jeff Murray  
Sue/Ben Vigesaa

### FOOD DONATION WEEKEND November 5th & 6th

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

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



*"Too often, we forget to thank the people who are closest to us. They are easy to take for granted, and we can expend all our patience and niceties on strangers and have only leftovers to give our family." — Kent Brantly*

## Congregational News

### Words from the Synod: “Transitions”

Dear Friends in Christ,

Transitions! Life is full of them. Sometimes they are positive transitions that bring about change that is needed or hoped for.

Sometimes they are sad transitions that are unexpected and not really wanted. But for life to truly be alive, life must change. Old things must depart for God's new life to enter in. And so we find ways to respond in healthy ways to the transitions that come.

The Montana Synod office is currently experiencing some transitions which will affect the staff and the whole synod over the next few months. Two of these transitions are exciting, with the possibility of new opportunities for the synod as well as some hoped for stability. One upcoming transition brings sadness with some goodbyes but also has potential for the Spirit to work new things in the Montana Synod.

The first transition is the addition of Milissa Jones (pronounced My-lissa) as our new office manager. MJ, as she likes to be called, started last week and comes to us from the hospitality industry. Already, she has been fitting in well, bringing some excellent skills to the job and tackling the many office manager responsibilities with enthusiasm. Please see below for MJ's bio and picture. She is in the office every weekday from 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. so feel free to call the office or email her with your questions. Keep in mind, though, that she is only a week and a half in so please be patient as she climbs the steep learning curve of being the Montana Synod office manager. MJ, welcome to the team as together we at the synod office work to equip the synod for the ministry of the gospel.

The second transition is also an exciting one. This past week our own Colter McCarty began his studies in the Leadership and Innovation Masters of Arts program at Luther Seminary on the Word and Service track toward becoming an ordained deacon in the ELCA. He will be engaging these studies through Distributed Learning which means he'll continue to live in Great Falls and work full time for the Montana Synod office. Colter will focus his studies on the intersection between ministry and technology which will take him beyond online worship into reflecting on ministry through the ever-growing tools and mindset that technology presents us. (Think: how did the printing press change the church and then bring it to the 21st century.) I am delighted to support Colter in this endeavor and I ask



Montana Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

you to support him as well with your patience, compassion, and prayers as he takes on these greater responsibilities not only for his own sake but also for the sake of the Montana Synod and the wider church. This focus on ministry and technology is a long time coming as we so clearly learned during the pandemic. Congratulations and thank you, Colter, as you engage in this important work.

The third transition is a sad one for me and I'm expecting will be for the whole synod. The current Associate to the Bishop, Pastor Jason Asselstine, has accepted a new call as a pastor of a congregation in the Nebraska Synod and his last day with the Montana Synod will be October 31, 2022. It has been a blessing to have Jason serving as my associate since I took office as the bishop in 2019. His gifts, skills and presence made becoming bishop so much easier than it could have been and I can't offer enough gratitude to God, to Jason and to his family for all they have given to the synod and the wider church over the past nearly 10 years. And while I am sad to see Jason leave, I hope and pray for God's blessings to rest upon him as he enters the new adventure on which the Holy Spirit is sending him and his wife, Jen. I invite your prayers, well-wishes and "go with God's" for Jason during this transition in his life. I also invite your prayers and support for the MT Synod as we too transition into the new possibilities that God has in mind for us. I am in the process of seeking and naming the new A2B (as we affectionately call the Associate to the Bishop) and will make an announcement as soon as that person has been selected and properly called.

Change happens. Life is change and change is life. What matters is how we choose to transition through the change. As the Psalmist writes: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change..." (Ps 46) As long as we open our hearts and minds to the God who guides us through our transitions, we have nothing to fear. For God will be our strength and refuge during the positive and the difficult changes ahead and will guide us into amazing possibilities when we let the Spirit lead. May God bless us all in this time of transitions.

In Christ's love,  
Bishop Laurie



## November 2022

1 *All Saints Day* Give thanks and praise to God for saints who have helped enrich our faith in Christ, inspired us to lives of service, cared for us, demonstrated grace when we needed it most, taught us life skills, influenced our values and stirred our hope and joy.

2 *Native American Heritage Month* Praise God for Native American and Alaska Native neighbors and siblings in Christ, who represent a rich diversity of gifts, backgrounds, tribes, regions, communities and congregations, and whose history long predates the colonization of North America. Pray for the work of ELCA Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations in seeking justice and reconciliation for all people, celebrating diversity within Christ's unifying love and supporting Native congregations and ministries.

3 "Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow" (Isaiah 1:17-18). Pray that we will respect the word and desires of God, seek the Spirit's guidance in responding to our neighbors in need, and trust God to create and renew a spirit of compassion and generosity within us.

4 Pray for those affected by wildfires, flooding, droughts and hurricanes, especially people struggling through immediate and long-term recovery. Ask the Spirit to inspire our generosity toward and involvement in the work of Lutheran Disaster Response and its partners to bring relief, support, hope and resources to our neighbors in need.

5 "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). Pray that, in every challenge we face, the Spirit will increase our trust and confidence in God's presence, care and help in our lives.

6 Praise the teachings and example of Jesus, who calls for us to be caring disciples, unafraid of being involved in the lives of those suffering injustice, persecution, isolation, grief, poverty or illness.

7 Pray for our outdoor ministry leaders as they gather for the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry conference in Boise, Idaho. Pray that their time together in the presence of the Spirit will be rich in mutual care and encouragement, ideas and resources, and opportunities to nurture their skills for serving in camp and retreat ministries.

8 *Election Day* Pray that our elected leaders will respect and serve all people, and that the Spirit will inspire and guide them in mending divisions, creating unity and encouraging constituents to work together for the well-being of all.

9 Ask the Spirit to deepen our understanding of Jesus and how the gift of God's son has the power to transform our lives and identities in amazing and unimagined ways.

10 Give thanks and pray for leaders of our church as they gather for the ELCA Church Council, that the Spirit will inspire faithfulness, wisdom, vision and creativity in their deliberations, decisions and guidance.

11 *Veterans Day* Honor and give thanks for those who have served in the military to secure freedom, justice, peace and security for our country and other nations. Remembering the sacrifices they have made on our behalf, pray for their families, their congregations, federal chaplains, and organizations that support and care for returning veterans.

12 Give thanks for the ELCA Lay Schools for Ministry Network and for the Select Learning program, through which our church and its partners provide laity with opportunities to deepen their faith, study Scripture and apply their skills and life experiences to following Christ and serving the church, their communities and the world.

13 Pray that the Spirit will help us live our baptismal journeys in anticipation of the return of Christ, with confidence in God's grace and without fear, worry or obsession over when or how that day will come.

14 Reaffirm to God our commitment to equal employment opportunity for all citizens, especially our neighbors and siblings in Christ who live with disabilities but whose gifts enrich our communities and nation.





## November 2022

15 Pray for a peaceful end to the war in Ukraine, and that the millions of people displaced from their homes and communities might find comfort, healing, hope and stability, returning to the daily lives and routines they once knew.

16 Pray for the ELCA's Homeless and Justice Network, a coalition of ministries called to serve those on the margins who experience homelessness, poverty and injustice.

17 "Do not be weary in doing what is right" (2 Thessalonians 3:13). Pray that our assurance of eternal life in the kingdom of God will free us to live in the here and now, fully engaged with our lives and vocations, sharing the gospel, serving our neighbor and working for justice.

18 Pray that we might confess our role in the climate change wreaking havoc throughout the world and might grasp the urgency of managing and caring for the earth, its resources and all living things — fragile gifts that God has entrusted to our use, care and restoration.

19 Pray for the ELCA's advocacy network and the work it empowers us to do for justice, equity and the well-being of society.

20 The love and mercy of God, which we experience in the life, suffering and sacrifice of Jesus, are for our sake and salvation. Pray that the Spirit will deepen our faith in Christ and help us reflect God's unconditional, sacrificial love for humanity.

21 Give thanks for Lutheran Men in Mission, Women of the ELCA and congregational ministries that attend to the spiritual, physical, emotional and relational needs of all ages, and that nurture leaders for the church, our communities and society.

22 Remember the people of Puerto Rico, who have suffered multiple natural disasters and endure ongoing, extensive recovery work. Ask the Spirit to renew their faith, hope, stamina and resilience; pray that they will make progress in restoring their infrastructure and regaining access to food, water, shelter, sanitation and medical services.

23 Give thanks to God for rescuing us from the power of darkness through the gift of Jesus Christ—our teacher, our truth and the light illuminating our complicated lives.

24 *Thanksgiving Day* Remember that everything we have to sustain and renew us, physically and spiritually, comes from God. Let us promise to be generous with all we have and to tirelessly bear the good news that Jesus Christ, the bread of life for the world that is never depleted, is our hope and salvation.

25 *Native American Heritage Day* Give thanks for the cultures, values, accomplishments and spirituality of Native Americans that have shaped our nation and church. We commit to learning more about Indigenous people and tribal nations and to working together to correct inaccuracies of history.

26 Pray that we will be responsible in what we consume and how we spend our money, knowing that our neighbors suffer hunger and poverty amid abundance.

27 *First Sunday of Advent* We will not be disappointed in our confidence in God's love and forgiveness, our anticipation of Christ's return or our welcome in the kingdom of God. Praise God!

28 Give thanks for the diverse work of the 28 ELCA missionaries accompanying 18 church bodies and 18 companion organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean. Ask God to bless and guide our ministry together so that we might respond to the needs of our neighbors in need who are most vulnerable and might spread the good news of Jesus Christ, far and wide.

29 Pray that the Spirit will deepen our generosity in sharing our resources and financial assets for the sake of our neighbors and the well-being of the world.

30 Pray that we will be generous and respectful in responding to and caring for those who cannot find secure shelter, pay for food or medical care, or support the children or older adults dependent on them.

# Peace Lutheran Church

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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

**November 2022**



## **Consecration Sunday**

November 13<sup>th</sup>

Worship 10:00 am

Consecration Meal following worship

Guest speaker is Rachel Simonson,  
from St John's United

## **13th Street Thanksgiving Worship**

Thanksgiving service with  
First Presbyterian, and Peace Lutheran  
Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm  
at First Presbyterian Church