

Herald of Peace

April 2023

Peace Lutheran Church,
1301 Ave. D, Billings, MT 59102

(406) 252-5504
peacelutheranbillings.com

Leadership Directory

Pastor: **Rev. Seth Rumage**
pastorrumage@gmail.com
Office 406-252-5504 Cell 406-298-2672

Office Manager: **Sue Vigesaa**
peaceoffice1301@gmail.com
Office 406-252-5504 Cell 406-861-1140

Youth Director: **Vanessa Steiger**
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Treasurer: Steve Frank
Worship Accompanists:
Robin Goodheart
Sue Vigesaa

Bells of Peace: Julie Draeger
Altar Guild Treasurer: Molly Johnson
WELCA Treasurer: Connie Hausauer

Church Council

Bob Bakko— dr.bobbakkolcpc@gmail.com
Ann Barsness— aadebarsness@outlook.com
Clarice Beery
Lisa Donovan— lisadonovan14@hotmail.com
Julie Draeger— julie.draeger@icloud.com
Wendy Goodheart— bellgirlwendy@yahoo.com
Molly Johnson— m64johnson@gmail.com
Jeff Murray— jeffreytmurray@yahoo.com
Jody Pierce— bijipierce@hotmail.com
Bob Peterson— bobsyl@bresnan.net

Peace Office Hours

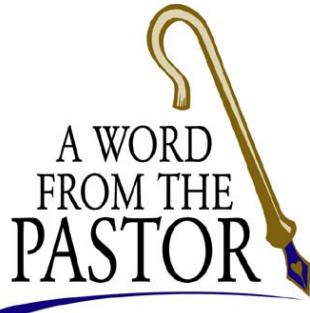
Monday— Friday
9am-12pm & 1pm-4pm

Weekly Worship Schedule

Saturday: 5:00 pm
In-Person and on Facebook
Sunday: 9:00 am
Community Channel 7
Sunday: 10:00 am
In-Person



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Allelu....

Well, if you're reading this in the first week of April, that's not quite an appropriate greeting yet, as we have to go through Holy Week first. But from our historical perspective, even as we walk through the highs (Palm Sunday) and joys (Maundy Thursday) to the lows (Good Friday) of Holy Week, we know the mystery, miracle, and magnificence of Easter is waiting for us on Easter Sunday.

But let's pretend for a moment that we don't have that historical perspective. Let's imagine for a moment that we are Jesus' original disciples, walking with him through the first ever Holy Week. Can you imagine what an incredible roller coaster of emotions those seven days would have held?

Let's start with Palm Sunday. As a disciple, you know how impactful Jesus' ministry has been on you and your friends, and it's *finally* apparent how much his ministry matters to the people of Jerusalem. Like a ticker-tape parade, celebrating a return from war or a professional sports championship, Palm Sunday drew a hearty crowd. Matthew tells us this crowd not only came out to see Jesus, but came to cheer and chant and create a spectacle. There they were, throwing down their cloaks, shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" (Mathew 21:5) Chanting and singing about the Messiah's presence in the Holy City, sharing the hope and joy of the coming of expectation, the energy and fervor must have been impossible to contain.

Prayer Concerns of those we prayed for in March 2023

For praise and thanksgiving

Elizabeth A. Eaton - Presiding Bishop, ELCA

Laurie Jungling - Bishop - Montana Synod

For people around the world in need

Prayers for Peace in Ukraine

Syria and Turkey earthquake victims

President Joe Biden and all elected officials

For illness or injuries of members

Monica Aalgaard

Kathy Gilbertson

John Modde

Carol Hauge

Geri Frasch

Ken & Marge Peterson

Leroy & Gertie Gross

Luella Ketterling

Lisa Grimsley

Ron Zech

Howard Albers

Hank Tungstall

James Kintzing

For illness or injuries of family and friends.

Rene Klimer—Marlin & Muriel Overstreet daughter, healing

Marlin Reeck—Roslind Bulger's brother health issues

Lauri—friend of Mike Brown health issues

Carrie—friend of Jo Pates, cancer

Taryn Befinzi—Ken Peterson's niece

Carol—Lois Gorseth's sister, cancer treatment

Kelly Miller—Pastor Kim Wilker's daughter, cancer

Gary Olson—Rick Olson's brother, hospice care

Gary Boje—Darlene Thompson's brother, recovery

Denise—Bonnie Hovik Clausen's daughter in law

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

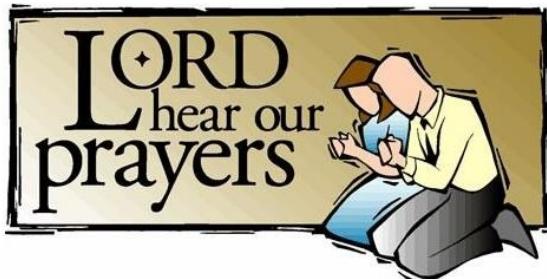
Connie Sider—Chuck's Sister, hospice

John—friend of Mike Brown, health issues

Skip—friend of Mike Brown, health issues

For those grieving ..

The family and friends of Carol Lee, who died March 9, 2023



Prayers 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 406-652-2441 or Lisa Grimsley 406-656-8113.



Congregational News

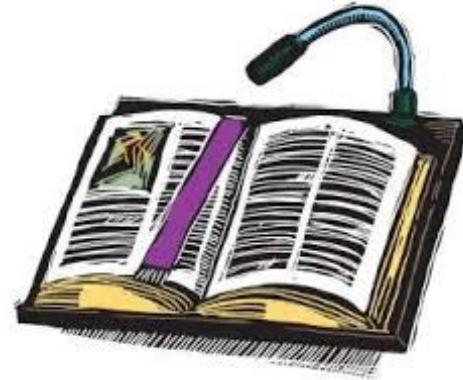
EASTER MORNING CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, APRIL 9th, 2023

7:30—10:30 a.m.



Help Needed: We are in need of lectors for each Saturday and Sunday worship services. The signup sheet is in the narthex. If you enter your email address the church office will send you a copy of the reading a week in advance. If you have any questions contact Julie Draeger. Thank you!



Peace Quilters

Quilting has returned to our regular Wednesday meeting times, 9:00 in the fellowship hall downstairs on the 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 5th Wednesdays. We welcome anyone who would like to help make mission quilts with us. It is not difficult to do! We will teach you to tie the square knots needed to put the quilt together. Or maybe you would like to lay out squares to be sewn into tops. There are several other things to do in making beautiful quilts.

Looking forward to meeting many new people and having many productive meetings. Coffee and treats are available again at 10:30.

Continued from Page 1

Then, a few days of preparation for the Passover meal and you're into Maundy Thursday. The energy of the past Sunday would have faded to an extent, to be replaced more by confusion as Jesus starts talking about what the ministry of the disciples will look like when he is gone. Jesus gave the command (Maundy is from the Latin "mandatum," mandate) for the disciples to "love one another as I have loved you." (John 13:34) You share the concern of your fellow disciples as Jesus waxes poetic about his departure. Things had been so good just a few days before, but now the Teacher is acting weird, becoming overly sentimental and shockingly macabre.

After dinner, Jesus leads you out to the Garden of Gethsemane, where his anxiety seems to hit a fever pitch. He's praying, crying, yelling at the disciples for falling asleep. His agony is so deep that "in his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground." (Luke 22:44) Then, suddenly a group of guards and soldiers appear to arrest Jesus. Do you step up to protect your rabbi? Do you run away, naked and vulnerable? ("A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked." Mark 14:51-52).

Those last hours of Thursday and first hours of Friday would have been only the beginning of your excruciating pain and fear. As Jesus was questioned, held in custody, beaten, and mocked, the sense of helplessness would have settled in. You may have overheard Peter, the foremost disciple, denying knowing Jesus. You may have been angry at this, or sympathetic. Then, in a terrible parody of the parade that was so life giving on Sunday, a procession begins from the courts of Pilate to the hill called Golgotha, where Jesus was to be crucified and die.

As you watch your teacher, rabbi, lord, and savior die, your terror peaks. You find your fellow disciples and hide, because if they can do this to Jesus, God knows they can do it to anyone, including you. The horror surrounds you like a cloud as you observe the Sabbath. The day the Lord gave for rest and rejuvenation is anything but. What could it mean that Jesus is dead? He was the one who was going to set the world right! If the hope of the Messiah is lost, where then could meaning and purpose for your life be found?

And then Sunday. That beautiful, death-defeating Sunday. The day in which everything falls into place, where despite the awe and inability to understand, you go to the tomb and see that it is empty. The things Jesus said must have been true! This life and love that God gives truly cannot be defeated- not by the powers of the world, not by the forces of evil, not by death itself. In Christ there is life!

As we reflect on what that first Holy Week may have been like, I hope you can see parallels in your own life. Many of us have not been part of something as dramatic as those seven days between Palm Sunday and Easter, but we have experienced death in our lives. We have experienced fear, even terror. We have felt the high points of life and we have muddled through the painful worries of daily existence. We have found hope in Christ and questioned if even God could handle the trouble of our lives and of our world.

Just as God walked with Jesus, his disciples, and all those who were present in that first Holy Week, God walks with you through the ups and downs of your life. In your fear, Jesus brings hope. In your pain, healing. In your anxiety, calm. In your joy, abiding love. As you realize this truth, your heart begins to open to God's love and you can join the refrain:

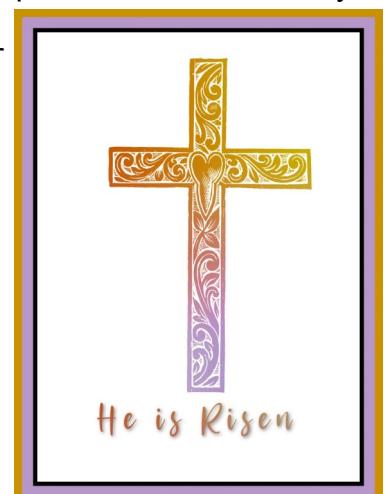
Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

May your Holy Week and Easter remind you of the life Jesus brings.

Peace,

Pastor Seth

Pastor Seth



Holy Week and Easter

at Peace Lutheran Church

1301 Avenue D Billings, Montana

Palm Sunday April 1 & 2

Saturday Evening- 5 pm
In Sanctuary and Online
Sunday Morning- 10 am
In Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday April 6

Dinner Church- 6 pm
Fellowship Hall

Good Friday April 7

Worship- 7 pm
In Sanctuary and Online

Easter Morning April 9, 2023

SONrise Worship- 7 am
At Front Entrance of Church
Traditional Worship- 9 & 10:30 am
In Sanctuary and Online

Continental Breakfast Served
7:30 - 10:30 am
Fellowship Hall

Easter Egg Grab
10:00 am
Front Lawn



Find us online!

PeaceLutheranBillings.com

[Facebook.com/PeaceLutheranBillings](https://www.facebook.com/PeaceLutheranBillings)



Congregational News

Upcoming Mission & Service Opportunities to Watch For

The Mission and Service committee continues to offer many opportunities to serve others. Please consider praying for where you can personally be doing God's work with your hands, and pray for those who will actively participate.

Here are the upcoming Mission and Service opportunities.

✚ PEEP, PEEP, PEEP.....THE CHICKS ARE BACK!

A \$1 donation buys a chick through the ELCA Global Barnyard program for a family in a developing nation. Celebrate Easter by once again participating in this fun outreach project of baby chicks! Buy one (or several since they're small!) and help a family escape hunger for good.

† Family Promise

Our next hosting week is April 9-15. We'll want to be ready to support with meals as needed.

✚ Christikon Benefit Auction

The 2023 auction will be held both online and in person. Watch for more information on how to participate online or in-person at the Billings Depot on April 30th.

✚ Christikon Cleanup Weekend

Consider helping at camp the weekend of May 26-29 as numerous volunteers gather to get the camp ready for the summer season. Many talents and hands are needed on a very busy weekend.

✚ Salvation Army Sandwich Making

The committee will be revisiting this to pick dates at our next meeting in May.

† Peace Food Pantry

The Peace Food Pantry could use your financial assistance. Due to the increase in food costs and the number of people needing assistance, increased assistance is requested. Any financial contributions you can make would be greatly appreciated.

† St. John's Summer Concert Series

We will be picking this volunteer project back up as a congregation this summer. Watch for a sign-up sheet as we get closer to our July date. Here are some preliminary details:

- Thursday, July 13, 7:00 PM (Entertainment is John Roberts y Pan Blanco)
- Volunteers needed:
 - ⇒ 5 golf cart drivers (18+ years of age)
 - ⇒ 2-4 program and water station (all ages)

Please check into organizations such as Family Service, Adult Resource Alliance, Montana Rescue Mission, and Billings Foodbank for individual volunteer opportunities.

Worship News

April Worship Themes

April 1st & 2nd—Palm/Passion Weekend

Palm/Passion Worship

This week, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

Readings and Psalm Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:1—27:66

April 9th—The Resurrection of Our Lord

Easter Festival Worship

This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, "God shows no partiality" (Acts 10:34): Christ's resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God's faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God's endless love.

Readings and Psalm Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2,14-24; Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10

April 15th & 16th

Country Gospel

In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

Readings and Psalm Acts 2:14a,22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

April 22nd & 23rd

ELW Setting 8

Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

Readings and Psalm Acts 2:14a,13-35; Psalm 116:1-4,12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

Worship News

April Worship Themes, continued

April 29th & 30th

Youth-Led Worship

Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

Readings and Psalm Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

Thank You

Members of Peace Lutheran,

We continue to be thankful and grateful to have such a peaceful place to meet. You are so appreciated. God bless you all.

Members of Al-Anon Groups



Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN
CASA OF YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

Peace Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your support of CASA of Yellowstone County! Your donation of \$500 supports volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates who work for the best interests of children in foster care.

Thank you for supporting the most vulnerable members of our community.

Sincerely,

Drew MacLeod
Executive Director

People of Peace Lutheran,

Thank you for your continued love and compassion for our global neighbors. We hope you display this certificate as sign of the impact your kindness has in transforming lives.

In Christ,

Jamie Lennon
Manager, Congregational Engagement



Education and Youth News

April Youth Group

Happy April! We will be meeting almost every Wednesday this month. The Elementary Youth Group begins at 5:30 PM and goes until 6:30 PM. After Peace Pals, we have dinner available for all who want to join in on the fun!

April 5th- No Wednesday Night Activities

April 12th- John 20: 19-31

April 19th- Luke 24: 13-35

April 26th- John 10: 1-10

Youth Spring Fundraiser

April 14th, 6:00-7:30 PM

We haven't done a Spring Youth Fundraiser since 2019, and the Education/Youth Committee is super excited to announce that we are bringing it back this year!

Tickets to the Fundraiser will be \$10/person and it will provide dinner. The kids from the Peace Youth program will be serving you! We will have Silent Auction items and a dessert auction. You can sign up on the Youth Bulletin board.

Sunday School To Go

April's Sunday School to Go theme is Praying Through Holy Week. The SSTG bag will go out on April 1st, and it has four activities. One for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. This bag is packed full of fun activities as well as activities that talk about the tough parts of Holy Week.

Looking forward to May, the Sunday School to Go theme is Faith Alive! As we are gearing up for Vacation Bible School, we are taking a look at one of my favorite past

VBS themes. Faith Alive features stories like The Prodigal Son, Lost Sheep, Good Samaritan, Time & Talents, and Building a House on a Rock. Stay tuned for what we come up with for June!

Vacation Bible School

June 5th-9th

Vacation Bible School is coming up soon, and registration goes live on April 1st! You can find the link for registration on our website, Facebook page, and the Mid-Week email.

If you'd like a paper registration form, you can contact Vanessa at peacelcyouth@gmail.com.

The Theme this year is Good News! Throughout the week of June 5th-9th, we will take a look at stories of Good News in the Bible that make us want to tell anyone and everyone about Jesus Christ. We are looking forward to another awesome week of VBS!

April Dates to Keep in Mind

April 1st- Sunday School To Go Bag:
Praying Through Holy Week

April 1st- VBS Registration is Live!

April 5th- No Wednesday Night Activities

April 9th- Easter! Don't forget about the Easter Egg grab between the 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM service.

April 14th- Youth Fundraiser, 6:00-7:30 PM

April 29th & 30th- Youth Worship

Community News



Peace Lutheran Family Promise Dates 2023

While Family Promise continues to discern how their program will continue as they work with the City of Billings to return to congregations, we at Peace have been given the next set of dates in which we will provide food for families in need:

April 9-15

August 13-19

October 15-21

Please consider helping during at least one of those times. Thank you for your continued support and generosity for this essential ministry!



Save the date for the Montana Synod Assembly! We will meet in Great Falls at the Heritage Inn starting Friday morning, June 2 and ending Saturday, late afternoon.

Christikon Benefit Auction In Person and Online



Christikon Benefit Auction
– Quilts, Vacation Get-aways, and a Whole Lot More will be on Sunday April 30th at the Billings Depot. Items are some of the finest artistry including a variety of hand-made quilts, art work, gift baskets, getaways, jewelry and so much more.

April 28-30 Online

Watch for the link to our auction platform on facebook at www.facebook.com/Christikon. Like our page and share it with your friends! Watch for sneak peeks!

Campers: Don't forget to register for one of our many sessions available this summer!

How about Work Weekend? Bring your family and enjoy camp/fellowship and more while helping to prepare camp for the season! We look forward to welcoming you to camp! Go to www.christikon.org and find your session!

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

CHRISTIKON

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406 656-1969 • director@christikon.org •
secretary@christikon.org • www.christikon.org

Congregational News

Staff E-mail Addresses

Pastor Seth Rumage

pastorrumage@gmail.com

Office Manager Sue Vigesaa

peaceoffice1301@gmail.com

Youth Director Vanessa Steiger

peacelcyouth@gmail.com



facebook

Find Peace Lutheran on Facebook!

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

Watch worship live, or on your own time. Keep up-to-date with goings on at church. Even send a message to chat with Pastor Seth or Vanessa!

Congregational Breakfast! Served by the Men's Breakfast group on Sunday, April 23rd, beginning at 8:30 a.m. All donations go to the Peace Food Pantry.



Simply Giving Program

Would you find it helpful to have your offerings taken from your bank account as you do other monthly drafts? Thrivent Financial for Lutherans sponsors a program called Simply Giving which offers this service for people who wish to have offerings transferred electronically to Peace Lutheran Church account. For those who travel, this is particularly helpful in keeping up with their intended offerings, and it

will keep you from having to make up the difference later. Contact the church office for more details.



Congregational Life Committee

The Congregational Life Committee is responsible to touch the lives of the people of Peace Lutheran Church by involving them in the life and ministry of the church. One of the most visible responsibilities is fellowship following worship services. We moved from asking service committee members to bring cookies, etc., to providing doughnuts. So, the duties have been reduced and only one or two people are needed for each Sunday. We will continue to assign monthly service committees as we have done in the past. If we have a potluck or other congregational function during the month, the committee may be asked to help. A committee chairperson will be assigned each month and will ask committee members to help with the fellowship/coffee following Sunday worship.

April Serving Committee

Joan Brown, chair

Mike Brown

Dewey Anderson

Mary Jo/John Greenfield

Kristi Bummer

Gayle Bummer

Mary Mosdal

Barb/Rick Olson

Barb/Jim Shaver

Connie Mantei

Thomas/Beret Newpower

Serve

Congregational News

Women of the ELCA



2023 Women of the ELCA Circles:

Everyone is welcome!

Martha Circle

Meets Third Wednesday, at 10:00 am
in the Fellowship hall

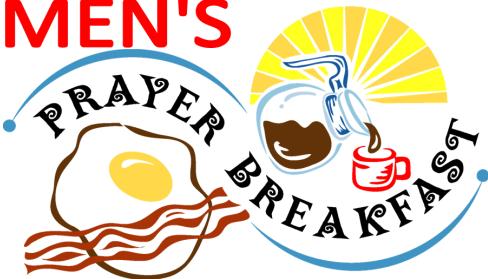
Katie Circle

Meets 2nd Tuesday at 6:30 pm
Peace Fellowship Hall

Ruth Circle

Meets second Tuesday at 11:30 am
Pizza Hut 2530 King Ave W

MEN'S



Men's Breakfast and Bible Study meets
Wednesday at 6:30 am in the
Fellowship Hall.
New-comers and one-timers are
always welcome.
Bring yourself and your appetite—
food and Bible study resources will be
provided!



Peace Lutheran 2023 Boards and Committees

Delegates to Ministries

Christikon

Mike Brown
Lois Gorseth
Katrina Rumage

Endowment Trustees

Bernie Mason
Rhonda Heidner
Dean Welliever
Dave Draeger
Melissa Sider

Lutheran Center

Pastor Seth Rumage**
Rhonda Heidner

Shepherd Cluster

Joan Brown
Deb Sider

St. John's Ministries

Holli Miller
Rhonda Sappington

Synod Assembly Delegates

Clarice Beery**
Connie Hausauer

*Designates Committee Chair

**Designates Congregation
Council Member

Congregational Committees

Abundant Life

Clarice Beery**
Mike Brown
Bob Peterson**
Danny* & Laura Quanbeck
Rhonda Sappington

Congregational Life

Joan Brown
Molly Johnson**
Holli Miller*
Jeff Murray**
Deb Sider
Melissa Sider

Education/Youth

Lisa Donovan**
Robin Felton
John Goodheart*
Tony Pecarina
Jody Pierce**
Vanessa Steiger

Mission and Service

Ann Barsness**
Paula Jackson
Bryan Peterson*
Rich & Cinda Robbins
Linda Strosky
Nancy Taylor

Mutual Ministry

Mike Brown
Holli Miller
Bob Peterson**
Sharon Schatzke
Chuck Sider

Nominating

Dewey Anderson
Steve Frank
Rhonda Sappington

Personnel

Bob Bakko**
Lisa Donovan**
Wendy Goodheart**
Bryan Peterson
Melissa Sider

Property

Jeff Murray**
Tony Pecarina*
Paul Strosky
Louis Taylor

Scholarship

Wendy Goodheart**
Holli Miller
Melissa Sider

Worship

Ann Barsness**
Julie Draeger**
Wendy Goodheart**
Sue Vigesaa

Next Newsletter Deadline:

April 20, 2023

Please send newsletter information to
peaceoffice1301@gmail.com





These petitions are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the ELCA, as well as for the needs and circumstances of our neighbors, communities and world. Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.

1 Arab American Heritage Month Remember in prayer the diverse gifts, stories and cultures of our Arab and Middle Eastern siblings in Christ, who remind us of the church's rich history and tradition. Ask God to bless the advocacy, witness, leadership development and ministry support provided by ELCA Arab and Middle Eastern Ministries and the Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage.

2 Palm Sunday Pray for strength to follow Christ and the will of God, especially when fear of criticism or standing out discourages us from proclaiming and demonstrating our faith.

3 Give thanks for the chance to study, pray, reflect and give during ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving, joining partners, companions, friends and neighbors around the world in doing God's work.

4 "How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings" (Psalm 36:7). Give thanks and praise for God's love and grace, which envelop all people and are never deterred by borders, divisions or regulations of our making.

5 Remember in prayer people who live in despair and yearn for hope, especially those recovering from natural disasters, incarcerated in prisons and jails, displaced by war and economic crises, or suffering poverty, hunger, unemployment or lack of shelter.

6 Maundy Thursday When we gather for communion with our siblings in Christ, we remember when Jesus gathered with disciples, friends and strangers around a meal. Give thanks for the bread and wine that remind us of God's abundant mercy and the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ, providing us the nourishment to live our baptismal call, walk in God's ways, serve our neighbor and share the gospel.

7 Good Friday Ask the Spirit to renew and strengthen our faith as we recall the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus for the sake of the world. Pray that our hope will be stirred and our lives energized by God's grace, given despite our complexity, weak-

PRAYER VENTURES

APRIL 2023

8 Holy Saturday Give thanks that darkness and death no longer hold us captive — God's promise of forgiveness, freedom and new life has been fulfilled for us in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

9 Easter Sunday "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised" (Matthew 28:5-6). Praise God! Give thanks that our lives, purpose and hope are forever changed in the risen Christ, God's tangible expression of love and mercy for humankind.

10 Give thanks for musicians, choirs, cantors, music directors, orchestras and bands that give witness to our faith, draw us into worship and reflection, and help us express our joy and praise to God.

11 Remember in prayer ELCA missionaries and Young Adults in Global Mission serving alongside our companions in Germany, Austria, Belgium, and the United Kingdom.

12 Give thanks for God's steadfast love and kindness, which are so often obscured by our daily activities, concerns and distractions.

13 Pray for students in our seminaries who, responding to the Spirit's call, explore opportunities for ministry and service wherever God is at work in the world.

14 Pray for the Peace Not Walls campaign as we work for justice, peace, human rights, reconciliation and healing in Palestine and Israel. Ask that our efforts might yield results as we accompany the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and all Jews, Christians and Muslims working together for peace with justice.

15 Give thanks for teachers in our public schools and pray that God will sustain and renew their energy and commitment as they manage the challenges of their vocation. Ask the Spirit to grant them compassion, wisdom and skill to attend to the needs of students and parents, and promise to generously support their service and unity.



PRAYER VENTURES

APRIL 2023

16 The story of Thomas, who was skeptical when Jesus first appeared to the disciples after his resurrection, is not unlike our own when we feel doubt and yearn for proof of God's presence and love. Ask God to forgive our uncertainty, and pray that our faith, like Thomas', will be renewed, so that we, too, might proclaim of Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28).

17 Pray for our presiding bishop, Elizabeth A. Eaton, that the Spirit will sustain her faith and wisdom and continue to equip her for guiding our church through the challenges of doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

18 Ask God to help us serve our neighbors in need, share the gospel, endure all hardships in this world and find comfort in the assurance of "an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven" (1 Peter 1:4).

19 Remember in prayer ELCA missionaries and Young Adults in Global Mission serving alongside our companions in Mexico, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Brazil.

20 Pray for God's counsel in how to be a positive, compassionate and healing influence in society and the world, following the path of life, light and truth.

21 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Western Iowa and Southwestern Texas synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

22 *Earth Day* Praise God for the diverse and abundant natural resources that sustain life, the interconnection of all that exists, and the wonders of creation that inspire and humble us. Pray that we will wisely steward what God has entrusted to our care and work diligently to restore what we have damaged and depleted — for the well-being of humanity and the honor of our Creator.

23 Pray that we might take advantage of opportunities to talk with one another about our faith, our questions, our thoughts and the challenges of following Christ.

24 Pray for farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers who, each spring, prepare, plant and tend fields, orchards and herds so that they will produce bountiful harvests and feed the world.

25 Rejoice in the good news that God has reclaimed us with the blood of Christ — Savior, Messiah and Teacher, the light of the world and the bread of life that sustains our spirit.

26 Remember in prayer musicians and worship leaders gathering online for the Music that Makes Community webinar "Composing Ourselves: A Laboratory for Creating Congregational Songs." Pray that the Spirit will inspire and nurture their skills for writing new worship songs drawn from diverse cultures and traditions.

27 Thank God for listening and responding to our prayers, both spoken and silent.

28 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Minneapolis Area, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana and Alaska synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

29 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Northwest Intermountain Synod, the Northeastern Minnesota Synod and the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

30 Pray that our faith might grow and mature as the Spirit guides and encourages us through worship, service, Bible study, involvement in a faith community, and the witness of our global companions.



2023

APRIL



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Peace Lutheran

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April 2023