



# Herald of Peace

## August 2020

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

(406) 252-5504  
peacelutheranbillings.com

### ***Making Christ Available to All by Rejoicing, Renewing and Reaching Out***

Peace Lutheran Church Mission Statement

#### **Leadership Directory**

Pastor: Rev. Will Sappington  
[prsappington@gmail.com](mailto:prsappington@gmail.com)  
office 252-5504 Home 647-8568  
Office Manager: Dean Jenson  
[peaceoffice@bresnan.net](mailto:peaceoffice@bresnan.net)  
252-5504  
Youth Director: Vanessa Stieger  
[peacelcyouth@gmail.com](mailto:peacelcyouth@gmail.com)  
office 252-5504 cell 698-5576  
Intern Pastor: Melissa Johansen  
[internpeace@gmail.com](mailto:internpeace@gmail.com)  
252-5504

Treasurer Steve Frank  
Worship Accompanists Robin Goodheart  
Sue Vigesaa  
Bells of Peace Julie Draeger  
Altar Guild Treasure Molly Johnson  
WELCA Treasurer Connie Hausauer

#### **Church Council**

Dewey Anderson  
Mike Brown  
Robin Felton  
Wendy Goodheart  
Holli Miller  
Tony Pecarina  
Jody Pierce  
Dan Quanbeck  
Bryan Peterson  
Nate Sider  
Linda Strosky  
Nancy Taylor

#### **Worship Schedule**

**Saturdays: 5:00 pm**  
**Sundays: 10:00 am**  
**Education Hour: 11:00 am**  
**Sunday Channel 7 at 9:00 am**



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



*I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. 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.*

Philippians 1:3-6

Eight years ago the people of Peace were preparing to welcome our very first intern, Justin Tigerman. There a while. Since that time we have welcomed and said good-bye to seven interns. Each student brought their gifts and desires for learning for the year. Each student invested a year of their lives with us as they learned a bit about how they would be leaders in the church. Each year we invested in them. Every intern has shed tears as they shed tears too



This last year has been very to say goodbye to Intern to welcome Intern Pastor Josh and Anna the way

## ***Prayer Concerns of those we prayed for July 2020***

### **We Believe in Prayer For praise and thanksgiving ...**

Elizabeth A. Eaton - Presiding Bishop, ELCA  
Jessica Christ - Bishop - Montana Synod;

### **For people around the world in need ...**

Needs of our neighborhood coping with  
Covid - 19 virus

President Donald Trump (requested by Peace member)

Christine & Scotty Soileau – Quantico, VA. (member of Peace)

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

Carol Hoefner - St. John's

Kathy Gilbertson

Hank Tungstall - healing

LaWanda Sherseth - healing

Annette Reich - Tender Nest

John Modde - recovery

Kathleen Gregg - healing

Larry Heiser –

### **For illness or injuries .. of family and friends.**

Ozzie Lachelt - friend of Dewey & Doris Anderson, healing and recovery

John & Rosanne Mode - John's son JC kidney cancer starting Chemo

John & Rosanne Modde - Rosanne's Wayne , bone cancer

Carrie - friend of Jo Pates, cancer

Jon - healing

John, for peace and healing

Mary - comfort

Dorothy

Briana, Lucas, Todd and Kendra

Jim Zeiler, brother of Sharon Hedden, healing

Jenny - Rick & Barb Olson daughter, cancer

Malcom - 6 yrs. old with a brain tumor

Rako Zech & family, Ron's Zech son - cancer diagnosis

Gary Fink - healing

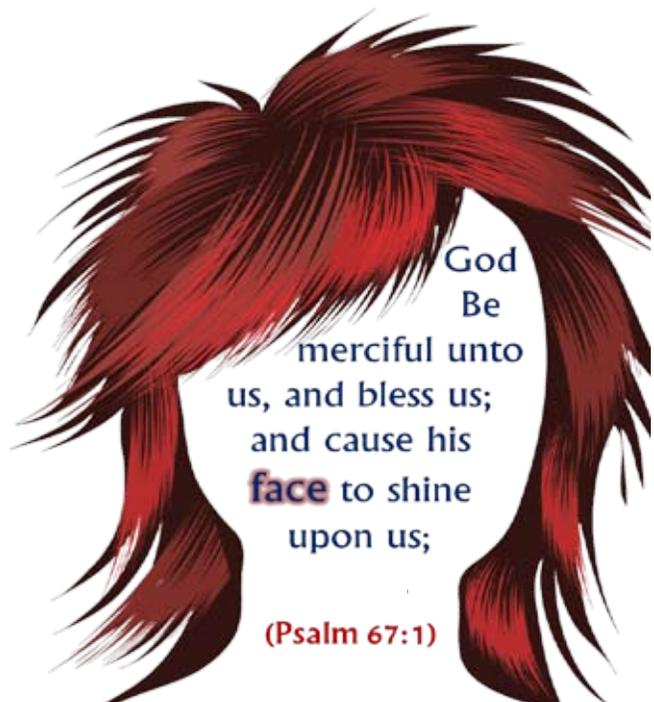
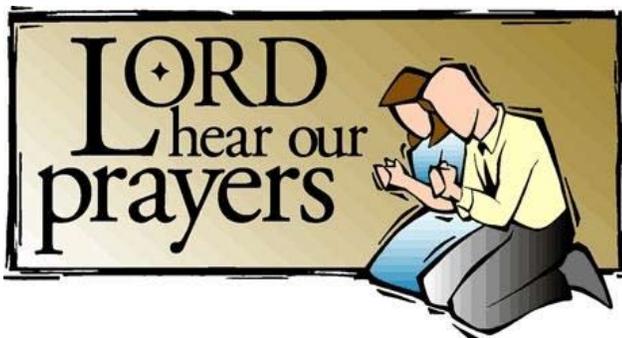
Ann Strecker - friend of Rick & Barb Olson - healing

Laura Fisher (Jodi Peterson's cousin) cancer

Shawn Hanser

Bud Leuthold - friend of Joy Lindberg leukemia

**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 (698-4121).



## Congregational News

### A Day in the Life of the Intern

*In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.*

*-Genesis 1:1-3*

August has always been a month of new beginnings for me. Whether it was making runs to Target to get the coolest 3 ring binder and backpack I could find, or getting up early to go to two-a-day practices, or simply savoring the last few days of summer vacation before the school year started back up, it was all about preparing for what was around the corner. This has been true for me this year more than ever. From the goodbye tour of Minnesota, to sorting through our apartment and packing up countless boxes, and figuring out the logistics of moving with my wife, cat, and dog, this season has been all about preparing for what comes next.

Riley is the first dog that I have ever had. She is a golden retriever who loves to play, give kisses, and has never seen a stick that she didn't like. It has been so fun to watch her grow, learn, and to teach her new things about the world every day. But there have been lots of things that she has taught me too. I have had to learn to be even more patient and understanding. I have had to learn new ways to communicate, and how to do things in a way that she will best understand. But my favorite thing that she has taught me is to notice the little things. When we go for walks, Riley will often stop when she sees or hears something she hasn't experienced before. When she does this, it forces me to stop thinking about all of the things that are going on in my life, and to take in the incredible creation that is all around me.

This has been especially important right now as our lives are about to change. During this time of new beginnings, remembering our God as Creator is something that I hold onto. As all of us begin to think about the next stages of our lives, whatever they may be, looking at the beauty around us is a place where I find peace, comfort, and hope. The God who created the leaves that rustle in the wind is the same God who breathes God's creative Spirit into our hearts and minds today. The God who created the waters that continue to flow through our streams and rivers is the same God who continues to create alongside us as we imagine what comes next. The God who created the mountains and the sunsets is the same God who works with us to bring God's beautiful Kingdom to Earth in and through us today. The God who created the eagles, the bison, the horse, the dolphin, and the human still cares about God's creation, and still creates for them to know the love of their God. We do not create our futures alone, but with this God walking and creating alongside us. I can't wait to see what we will all create as a community as our time together begins.

God Bless,  
Josh Wyman

Congregational News

con't from pg. 1

want to focus on what will happen with and for Intern Pastor Josh and Peace this year.

In this year Peace will continue to be a teaching congregation. In this year Peace will be a laboratory for a preacher, pastoral care provider, a teacher, and a church administrator. In this year Peace will be a people of care and compassion for an intern and his wife as they are in a new place. In this year we will be the extraordinarily welcoming community

(I can try to fight the wave and lose, or I can feel commanded the storms to cease.)

We will continue holding outdoor services as long as it is loving to neighbors and the weather holds. We will continue to be available to you for prayer and support as you need it. We will continue to reach out to our neighbors near and far in service.

We are not a people of fear. We are a people of love and grace.

Peace,  
Will +



John 20:21, NRS

The Ruth Circle that normally meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Hardees at 11:30 a.m., decided they would like to meet for their usually scheduled Bible Study in June. Since Hardees is still not open for dine-in seating and to follow Covid health recommendations, the group met at a Sacajawea Park, brought their lunch and enjoyed the opportunity for fellowship after months of separation and a bible study with lots of discussion. The group also plans to meet in August at their usually scheduled time.



# Congregational News



## Peace Quilters

We finished our year with 84 quilts to ship to Lutheran World Relief. We were surprised we had so many!! We didn't meet from the second Wednesday of March until the beginning of June when we were notified the truck would be coming to pick up the quilts on July 11th. Six or seven of us met each Wednesday morning to finish putting together what we could, When we packed the boxes, we had 84! There was also

30 School kits ready to go. Altogether we had 22 boxes for LWR.

We will take the rest of the summer off and start again the second Wednesday of September.



**Packing up the quilts for Lutheran World Relief**



## Worship News

### August Worship Themes

We've added two more weeks to our "Unraveled" series! What happens when our world falls apart? How do we press onward when our tightly-knit plans unravel into loose threads? What do we become when our identity—or the path we're on—comes undone? What if all of this is not the end we fear it will be?

Throughout this series, we'll create a piece of art together- a fabric medallion. This will be a way to lament what has unraveled in our personal lives and in our life together. But it will also help us notice the ways God is weaving us and our world together. Each week, you'll have the opportunity to share prayers of what is unraveling around you and/or how you sense God weaving something together. All of the responses will be written on strips of cloth that will then be woven together.

**(Sermon focus texts are in bold.)**

**August 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>** Ninth Weekend after Pentecost "Faith"

**Readings:** Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; **John 20:19-29**

*Would you or I have acted any differently? When we hear news that seems too good to be true we have to check it out for ourselves. We have to see with our own eyes. What do we do when the unimaginable happens?*

**August 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>** Tenth Weekend after Pentecost "Life"

**Readings:** Psalm 85:8-13; **Exodus 1:22, 2:1-10**

*I would do anything to keep my children safe. Moses' mother was the same. If we have children we have dreams for them. We have plans for how we fit into those dreams. What do we do when we are forced to make new plans?*

**August 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>** Eleventh Weekend after Pentecost "Lament"

**Readings:** Psalm 67; **Job 28:12-28**

*There is a question I love, but I hate to be asked. The question is "Why?". You probably know the story of Job and of any of us he has the best case to ask the question, why. Seeking wisdom and understanding is a part of unraveling.*

**August 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>** Twelfth Weekend after Pentecost "Healed"

**Readings:** Psalm 138; **Mark 5:1-20**

*A man is healed of a tortured mind and spirit. He is restored to community. The unraveling this week is an unraveling of the mind. Where do we turn when we find ourselves in need of healing and restoration?*

**August 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>** Thirteenth Weekend after Pentecost "Messages"

**Readings:** Psalm 26:1-8; **Daniel 5:5-30**

*This is not a story you've heard preached before. The unraveling here is pride and power. Lessons that should have been learned are either never learned or totally forgotten. Come and hear the wisdom of Daniel given to him by our God.*



Compline Worship

### Mid-Week Worship Service at Peace!!!

Everyone is invited to tune in 7pm Wednesday evenings.

Go to Website [peacelutheranbillings.net](http://peacelutheranbillings.net)

and join in the live stream of worship

**August 5** - Evening Song

**August 12** - Compline

**August 19** - Celtic Evening Liturgy

**August 26** - Holden Evening Prayer

**Holden  
Evening  
Prayer**

Marty Haugen

Education and Youth News

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Forest Animals



Word search grid containing letters for forest animals.

- forest, deer, bear, fox, owl, raccoon, squirrel, rabbit, skunk, wolf, porcupine



## Mission and Service News

### Upcoming Mission & Service Opportunities to Watch For

The Mission and Service committee hopes this article finds you staying well and healthy. There is still much uncertainty regarding how we will be able to serve as a congregation as our world and lives continue to evolve and revolve around this pandemic. Here are the tentative Mission and Service opportunities and notes for August. Please consider praying for where you can personally serve others, and pray for those that will actively participate.

- ➔ **Lutheran World Relief Masks- THANK YOU**, thank you to all who helped with our face mask outreach! 200 colorful and variously patterned masks were sent to Lutheran World Relief for dispersal overseas. Kudos to Ann Barsness who made 100 of them. If anyone would like to make more, we can gather and ship again mid-September.
- ➔ **Quilts/School Kits-** Thank you to those who helped quilt, make school kits and supported the cause financially. 84 quilts along with 30 school kits were shipped. A special thank you goes out to Elaine Shong for bringing the school kit project idea to life.
- ➔ **Adopt-a-Teacher-** Watch for more information to possibly assist teachers at Highland Elementary. The tentative date to assist is August 19th if we're able to move forward.
- ➔ **All Congregation Day of Service/Family Promise Set-Up-** Our next scheduled week to host Family Promise is November 8-14. How this week looks will depend on where things stand with the pandemic. We will at a minimum support this cause with meals. Please reach out to Family Promise any time if you would like to support them with meals. You do not have to wait for our hosting week to help.

*Get and out enjoy the end of summer. Pray for our world in this time of need and that God will see each and every one of his children through this trying time. Stay well, and God bless!*

#### Quilts and Kits

A year ago Elaine Shong read about an opportunity to serve kids around the world. She brought the idea of putting together school kits to the Mission and Service team and they loved the idea.

Covid-19 put a dent into our plans, but thanks to the great work of the quilters and your generous gifts we are sending school kits and beautiful quilts off to be a blessing.

A great big thank you to the quilters and to all the people of Peace who have supported these efforts!



# Community News

## K YñY 5Xcdh]b[ ; ]f`g°

The people of Peace are getting two girls ready for school.

HVY`c`XYf` [ ]f` is a 5th grader. She bYYXg.

!`G]nY`%\$!`%&`dUbhgž leggings, shirts, underwear, and a coat. Size 3 shoes UbX`gcW`g"

HVY`nci b[ Yf` [ ]f` ]g`U`\_]bXYf [ UfhbYf"" G\Y`bYYXg.

- Size 4T shirts, pants, underwear, and a coat. Size 9 toddler shoes and gcW`g"

You can shop online or in person. After you have your items drop them off at Peace.

All items need to be in by **August 14th.**



**THANK YOU**, thank you to all who helped with our face mask outreach! 200 colorful and variously patterned masks were sent to Lutheran World Relief for dispersal overseas. Kudos to Ann Barsness who made 100 of them. If anyone would like to make more, we can gather and ship again mid-September.



Quilt presented to Intern Pastor Melissa Johansen by the Women of Peace.



# Congregational News



## Church E-mail Addresses

### Pastor Will

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

### Church Office

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

### Intern Pastor

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

### Youth Director

[peaceclcyouth@gmail.com](mailto:peaceclcyouth@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.



## Bible Studies

The Regular schedule for Women's Circles returns:

**Ruth** Circle meets on the second Tuesday at 11:30 am at Hardees on 24th **See pg. 4**

**Martha** Circle meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall

**Deborah/Katie Circle** meets Second Saturday at 10:30 am at Peace

**Currently Suspended**

## 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

# Congregational News

### Currently Suspended

#### 2020 Circles & Bible Studies:

Everyone is welcome!

#### Martha Circle

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

#### Deborah-Katie Circle

Meets 2nd Saturday at 10:30 am  
at Peace

#### Ruth Circle See pg. 4

Meets second Tuesday at 11:30 am  
at Hardees on 24th

### Peace Lutheran Church Council

President - Tony Pecarina

Vice President - Dewey Anderson

Secretary - Linda Strosky

Dewey Anderson - Abundant Life, Property

Mike Brown - Property

Robin Felton - Education/Youth

Wendy Goodheart -

Holli Miller - Congregational Life

Tony Pecarina - Education/Youth

Jody Pierce - Education/Youth

Dan Quanbeck -

Bryan Peterson - Mission & Service

Nate Sider - Education/Youth

Linda Strosky - Mission & Service

Nancy Taylor - 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



Meeting on Zoom

### Boards/Committees

#### St John's Ministries

Rich Robbins

Rhonda Sappington

#### Christikon

Kaia Sappington

Mike Brown

Erl Barsness

#### Lutheran Center

Rhonda Hanson

Debbie Sider

#### Endowment Trustee

Ed Popp

Molly Johnson

Bernie Mason

Rhonda Hanson

Dean Welliever

#### Nominating Committee

Dean Welleiever

George Simek

Chuck Sider

Linda Strosky

Holli Miller

### Questions about Council Activities? If

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

President Tony Pecarina

Vice-President Dewey Anderson

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

TURN IN  
YOUR ARTICLES  
**EARLY!**

RE M I N D E R :

DEADLINE FOR  
NEWSLETTER  
ARTICLES IS

**August 20th**

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





## August 2020

**1** Pray for open hearts and minds, that we might reflect prayerfully on our church, society, institutions, laws, traditions and selves, seeking meaningful change and reform to combat racism and white supremacy wherever they exist, perpetuate injustice or influence us.

**2** Pray that the story of Jesus feeding the hungry crowd will inspire us to be compassionate and generous, and that, individually and together, we will be able and equipped to respond to the needs of our neighbor.

**3** Give thanks for artists and craftspeople who share their creative gifts and perspectives, arousing our joy, wonder, reflection and appreciation of life.

**4** Pray that we will not be too inhibited to wrestle with God and God's Word, or to have candid conversations with God, and that the Spirit will deepen our trust in God's love, concern, forgiveness and patience with us.

**5** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Young Adults in Global Mission program will not be sending out volunteers this year. Give thanks for young adults who have volunteered for global service over the years, and pray that the Spirit will guide the Young Adults in Global Mission program as it prepares to continue its work and ministry alongside our global companions.

**6** Ask the Spirit to help us be bold and articulate in sharing who God is, what God has done and what God is doing in the world for the sake of all people.

**7** Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathered for the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly and participating in online sessions, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

**8** Pray for the Spirit to stir within us humility, wisdom, empathy and a commitment to dismantle the barriers between people who live in wealth and people who live in poverty. Pray that all will have sufficient resources for daily life and self-sufficiency but also will develop a deeper commitment to mutual care and will value one another and our interdependence.

**9** Just as Jesus calmed and reassured his disciples in a boat crossing a stormy sea, we pray for protection, comfort and renewal of faith in these difficult, uncertain times and in future ordeals.

**10** Give thanks to God for leaders — paid and volunteer — who serve in youth, young adult and family ministries in our congregations and synods. Pray for the ELCA Youth, Young Adult and Youth Gathering ministries and the ELCA Youth Ministry Network, that their collective work of supporting, equipping and nurturing faith and of connecting leaders and young people will yield abundant fruit.

**11** Pray that we will listen carefully to God and be receptive to the ways God speaks to us each day, especially when we least expect it or are slow to recognize God's voice amid the noise and competing voices in the world.

**12** "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" Ask God to help us proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and salvation, that all who hear will believe, be saved and enjoy the blessings of being a sibling in Christ with believers throughout the world.

**13** Give thanks for nurses, who care for our physical, emotional and spiritual needs in diverse settings, including hospitals, community clinics, congregations, schools, home care, the military, facilities for older adults, health education programs and global mission. Pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Parish Nurse Association and its work supporting, equipping and encouraging parish nurses across the country.

**14** Pray that during this pandemic, which has stretched beyond our expectations and imagination, we will be renewed in our commitment to the patience, sacrifice and awareness of the example we set as we continue personal health measures for the sake of our health and the wellness of our neighbors, community and nation.

**15** Pray for the leaders, voting members and others of the Eastern North Dakota Synod who are gathering for their digital assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

**16** Pray for forgiveness and God's mercy when our actions, words, intentions or thoughts dishonor God's ways and commandments. Ask for the Spirit to help us shine as bright witnesses to God's unbound, unbiased love for humanity and to serve our neighbor without prejudice or reluctance.



## August 2020

**17** Remember in prayer the people and communities of India and Bangladesh that were affected by Cyclone Amphan in May. Pray for the response of Lutheran World Service India Trust, supported by Lutheran Disaster Response, as it provides food to families in urban slums, tarps and temporary shelters, and assists families in obtaining aid for housing reconstruction. Pray for God's presence, comfort, hope and healing throughout their recovery.

**18** God asks us to do justice and do what is right. Pray that we will be faithful to God's ways and commandments and to Jesus' example of unrestrained love and compassion for people who are needy, suffering or oppressed.

**19** Give thanks for nimble, creative teachers and school staff as they adapt to the changing dynamics of the COVID-19 pandemic with concern for the safety, education and personal needs of students and their parents.

**20** God is gracious and blesses us; God's face shines on us. Join creation and every nation in praising God and singing for joy!

**21** Who can argue with the psalmist who proclaims that it is good and pleasant when we live together in unity? Pray that, amid unrest, conflict and division, we will work for the unity that God desires for us, a unity rooted in love, respect, justice, diversity, reconciliation, mutual understanding and advocacy for neighbors in need.

**22** Give thanks for how God sustains us and nurtures our hope through interactions with friends, family, siblings and by phone, text, email, online meetings, posted notes and cards, and acts of kindness.

**23** How do you respond when someone asks you about your faith, your beliefs, the church or who Jesus is? Pray that the Spirit will inspire our boldness and clarity as we, respecting and welcoming people's questions, talk about our faith, recognize and seek opportunities to bear witness to God's presence and work in the world, and reveal the Jesus we know and follow through our actions and prayerful conversations.

**24** Pray for students beginning a new academic year, that they will adjust quickly to new ways of learning, being together and interacting safely. Ask the Spirit to inspire our communities of faith to provide support, encouragement and help for children, youth, young adults and parents, especially during these beginning weeks and months of school.

**25** "In one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another." Give thanks and praise to God for the diverse gifts, skills and life experiences we have been given, which we share in the body of Christ to build each other up and do God's work in the world.

**26** Remember in prayer our global companions and all nations fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, the resulting economic problems and social and emotional stress, and the lack of accessible health care and adequate medical resources. Pray that we will respond to our global neighbors in need with empathy, hope and generosity, freely sharing our resources, discoveries and technology.

**27** Give thanks and praise to God for hearing our words, loving us, sustaining us through times of trouble and strengthening our spirit and faith.

**28** Give thanks that, as a church, we listen to the needs of our neighbors, roll up our sleeves and get to work with partners and companions in our communities and the world, helping and serving where the needs are greatest.

**29** In this presidential campaign year, pray that our leaders and candidates will serve all people, especially those in the greatest need; work to heal wounds and divisions in society; strive for justice and equality; and seek change for the well-being and prosperity of our communities. Pray that our faith, wisdom and concern for neighbors and global companions will guide our discernment and decisions in upcoming elections.

**30** Give thanks that we have been transformed and made new through God's love for us and our baptism in Jesus Christ. Pray that the living word of Jesus will guide our baptismal journeys so that we extend hospitality to strangers, love and serve our neighbor, overcome evil with good, accompany people who are suffering and in pain, and disavow vengeance and hate.

**31** Pray for synod leaders and committees as they carefully plan assemblies rescheduled for this fall or next year. Remember that our strength and unity in Christ transcend traditional places, methods or times of gathering — we are the church, the body of Christ,

# Peace Lutheran Church

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

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