
Friends and Family Sunday March 15. Invite friends & family members to worship this special Sunday! Come to a spaghetti lunch after 11 am worship at 12:30 pm with a chance to give a donation toward Peace’s Community Resources Ministry (partially funded by a Thriven Action Grant).

Adult Education Sundays March 29 – April 26 at 9:45 am. “Luther’s Catechisms,” led by Malcolm Carroll. What are the Small and Large Catechisms? Why did Martin Luther write them? What do they teach us today? How can they help us as we seek to live out God’s justice in our daily lives? Together we will reflect on words that have shaped the lives of Lutheran Christians for centuries.

Community Bible Study on Break. The Community Bible Study on Wednesday evenings led by Pastor John is on break in Lent, starting Feb. 26. Please come to Lenten Wednesday evening offerings.

Men’s Breakfast. The Men’s Breakfast and Bible study meets the second Saturday of each month from 8:00 – 9:30 am in the multipurpose room. Connect with God and share fellowship with other men!

Women’s Bible Study. All women are invited to the Women’s Bible Study every second Thursday at Peace, 10 am – 12 pm. After the study, women usually stay to eat a brown bag lunch, so bring your lunch if you would like.

Learners to Leaders. Come support Peace Community Center at the annual fundraising dinner Friday March 27 at the Tacoma Convention Center. 5:30 pm cocktail hour, 6:30-8:30 dinner and program. $60/person. Register online at peacecommunitycenter.org/events.

Prayer Chain. Do you know that Peace has a Prayer Chain, a group that prays regularly the thanksgivings and needs of our community? Want to add a request to the Prayer Chain? Want to be part of the group that prays these requests? Want to learn more? Contact Sandra Puckett at quietwater60@yahoo.com.

Fat Tuesday Paint Night! Come to Peace on Tuesday Feb. 25 from 6 – 7:30 pm for a pancake meal (with lots of toppings!) and intergenerational painting evening of fun and fellowship! This is our last big hurrah before we enter the Lenten season of 40 days (not including Sundays), a journey with Jesus to the cross.

Easter Eggstravaganza! Come to Peace on Saturday April 11 from noon to 1:30 pm for an egg hunt, Easter crafts, Easter story, and food! Great for families!
Pastor John's Reflection

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.” For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, “Peace be within you.” For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good. — Psalm 122

In the morning, while it was still very dark, Jesus got up and went out to a solitary place, and there he prayed. — Mark 1:35

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” — Mark 14:39

People of Peace,

Welcome to the season of Lent which begins Ash Wednesday February 26 (worship at 7 pm). Lent is a journey with Jesus to his suffering and death and beyond to his resurrection at Easter. When we intentionally walk with Jesus to the cross in Lent, the Easter promise of new life in God is more meaningful! I invite you to practice the three disciplines of Lent—prayer, fasting, and almsgiving (acts of service)—and to participate in opportunities to grow in faith at Peace—midweek gatherings Wednesdays from 6:30 pm, Sunday adult education, and Holy Week worship.

I want to focus on prayer in this reflection. Prayer is a gift from God to us, a conversation with God that strengthens our connection with God. In prayer, we’re encouraged to speak to God, sharing praise, confession, thanksgiving, and concerns. For example, in Psalm 122, a psalm we heard recently in Sunday worship at Peace, the psalmist prays for the peace of Jerusalem. I asked our Wednesday Bible study and the Future Directions team at Peace, “What is your prayer for the peace of Tacoma?” How would you respond to that? I encourage you to continually pray for Tacoma in Lent.

We sometimes forget that prayer is also listening to God (just as we sometimes forget that listening is part of conversation with a loved one). It’s hard to listen in the midst of many distractions. When we look closely at Mark’s Gospel, we see, Jesus often withdraws from people, daily life activities, and the demands of his ministry to be alone with the Father and pray. The Son of God listens to the Father God. The Gospels remind us often of Jesus’ solitude and silence. It’s how he began his ministry, made important decisions, dealt with grief, navigated the challenges of ministry, took care of himself, taught his disciples, and prepared for his death on the cross. With solitude and silence, he grew deeper in loving relationship with his Father God. This can be true for us as well.

The Gospel writer Mark tells his gospel in a hurry. He uses his favorite expression “immediately” 39 times in his Gospel. According to Mark, Jesus seems to be in such a hurry. At the same time, he takes times for solitude and silence, prayer and listening.

In the midst of your hurry, your daily activities and distractions, the many pulls on your time and attention, will you take time this Lent to pause and pray? Will you prioritize time for solitude and silence? Will you intentionally seek to listen to God?

I encourage you to find your own way to do this. You may choose to use a Lenten daily devotional, sit in silence in centering or contemplative prayer, read your Bible and quietly reflect on its meaning for you, take regular walks in the beauty of God’s creation, or carve out moments for another faith practice that deepens your relationship with God. At our midweek gatherings in Lent beginning March 4, you are invited to take part in Holden Evening Prayer worship at 7 pm (about a half hour). Receive this as a rest stop on the journey, a time to pause and pray and reflect on the deep love of God for us.

Blessed Lent and Easter,

Pastor John

IN REACH PROGRAMS:

2020...who would have imagined. Check out the Koinonia Table for programs. If you are interested in helping on any of these programs/ministries, sign up OR please leave your name, phone number and email address. OR contact -Jeanie Correa, jeanblueii@gmail.com or 253-278-3390.

Clothing Bank: We are holding off on accepting any more clothes at this time. We need to do some organization. I appreciate all of the donations. However, if you have blankets we will take them.

Helping Hands: Currently available: bookshelves, dressers, table and chairs if anyone is interested. Please contact Janie Correa.

Breakfast: Going well! Please check the Koinonia Table for openings. Coffee is being made at 7:30 am or 8:00 am by: 1st Sunday is Michele Tellis 2nd Sunday is Jeanie Correa 3rd Sunday is Tom Heavey 4th Sunday is Teresa Jackson 5th Sunday is Carmen Lampman

Please note that all these people already volunteer for other ministries in the Church so if you are so willing to take a Sunday each month, please contact Jeanie Correa.

Fellowship Time: (Sunday Refreshments after 11 a.m. service.) If you’re willing to being a snack, contact Jeanie Correa.

Care Ministry: Be part of reaching out to those who need extra from the Peace Family….come make cards, visit, take communion, make phone calls, provide meals, etc.

Meal Train: Contact Kathy Hanawalt (kathyhanawalt@gmail.com) to get on the list. We try to provide meals to people recovering from some of life’s events.

Green Team: Become a part of the Green Team, and help make Peace a Greener Community. Help secure a future for all and improve our living environment. Interested? Please sign up at the Koinonia Table.

During Meal Times...Please remember the following:

When scraping off your plate please place all food items in the compost bucket and garbage in the garbage can. Set your plate on the rack. Silverware goes in the black bin with water.

Thank you for following these simple rules. Remember we all need to be a part of making our environment “greener” for the future. I want to thank JOE BLARE for his dedication to washing dishes and cleaning the kitchen on Sundays!! PLUS he is helping Berta.

Kitchen: Being a good neighbor is important and we need to strive for better organization in the kitchen between the Center and the Church. On January 23rd, Mary Hatton and I will be cleaning out refrigerators and storage areas to make them ready for the Center and the Church. Please note any item stored in the refrigerators that is not marked, may be tossed. Please pay attention to where your item is being stored, as shelves will be marked “Center” or “Church”.

WE also need to be very mindful in keeping the kitchen clean or even cleaner than we found it. Guidelines for the use of the kitchen are in a notebook in the kitchen and if you have any questions, PLEASE ask.

Inreach: One of my missions this year is to get to know each and every one of you; and I hope to remember your name when I see you again. Please do not be surprised if you get an email, phone call, home visit, or something from me. Feel free to come up to me and introduce yourself.

Koinonia Table: My second mission is to get volunteers on a regular basis to sit at the table. Teresa Jackson and I are the primary individuals sitting there but we would like to have some alternates. This area is set up each Sunday to provide updated information to members, be welcoming to new individuals, keep an eye out for those coming and going during the service, having a friendly face there, etc. Please consider signing up. YOU can hear the sermon, so you would not miss out on that.

Peace and Love to all,

Jeanie Correa
What We’ve Been Up To!

Brendan Nelson leads the Children’s Message

Those who celebrate...
- All God’s children journeying through Lent and celebrating God’s power for life and hope at Easter
- The Peace community as we reach out to Hilltop families, especially through affordable housing, community meals and community resources ministry, academic support, enrichment opportunities, mentoring, & faith offerings for all
- 19 New Members to Peace Church in December; newly baptized: Jeremiah Johnson, Jack Austin

Those who are hurting...
- The hungry, those struggling with extreme poverty, those without homes, those without hope...
- All who grieve the death of loved ones
- All who are ill, facing surgery, recovering from hospitalization, for healing...
- All suffering from malaria and HIV/AIDS, for God’s deep healing presence...
- All who struggle financially, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually, for hope…
- Refugees fleeing war and poverty, and all who live midst violence, war, or unrest, especially the people of Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Iraq, Ukraine, Holy Land, Central African Republic, & Yemen

For the complete list, see Sunday’s bulletin.

Children’s & Intergenerational Ministry

We are so excited to be partnering with KBTC again to put on our annual Fat Tuesday Paint Night. Come hang out with us on Tuesday, February 25th 6pm-7:30pm for a pancake dinner and an evening of fun with our whole community. This event is for all ages and we really mean all ages.

We hope to see you there! Then it’s Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of the Lenten season. During Lent we will have our soup suppers and evening services which will include an intergenerational activity and a children’s message and activity.

Peace’s Children’s ministry continues with our beloved Godly Play time and Children’s worship time. If you see one of our Godly Play volunteers (Leigh, Siri, Kathy, Carmen, Teri, and Jeannie) please thank them for their hard work to grow, build, and engage our children in their faith. I am currently seeking more volunteers who would like to partner in helping our older children thrive and grow.

We are trying to develop new ways of engaging older elementary aged children (3rd and 4th graders) to ensure their ever-growing curiosity and maturity is being responded to and encouraged. If you would be willing to help lead a new faith education hour space for 3rd and 4th graders, please contact me at jae@peacetacoma.org.

We continue to listen to God, volunteers, and our parents to best shape our children’s ministry going forward. We are excited for the new season and the opportunities for engagement that this time brings.

Jae Bates, Intergenerational Outreach Coordinator

Affordable Housing Ministry

Peace Lutheran Church transforms. We transform our hearts, then we transform the world around us. Through the PLC Housing Ministry, we transform both the houses we manage and the households who live in them.

Has this been a transformative year for the Housing Ministry? Maybe. The highlight was acquisition last summer of a second property and a third house, making now two parcels with three houses. Which means we are currently providing low-rent housing for three households that might otherwise have experienced homelessness.

While we may not exactly be transforming the neighborhood, we can honestly say that we are preserving a good part of it as affordable during a citywide crisis in the availability of affordable housing. Even as large portions of our Hilltop Neighborhood are experiencing a doubling, tripling, and even quadrupling in the cost of rent or purchase, the rental rates for our three homes have remained at only 50% of what is still considered affordable – and they have not appreciably changed in our four years of operation!

The miracle of this ministry rests in the transformation of the houses we maintain, the households we house in them.

For the complete list, see Sunday’s bulletin.
Youth Ministry

People of Peace,

I want to share with you some things about youth ministry at Peace that we can celebrate and opportunities for you to “get in where you fit in”, because there is room for everyone!

First, as a church staff, we are working to strengthen our intentional connections with Peace Community Center staff and programs. I’ve had the privilege to visit with students from our high school programs and hear about the “roses and thorns” in their lives and I must say that I’m truly inspired by the resilience and strength of our youth.

Over the last few months I have spent some intentional time soliciting feedback from parents, youth and the church in regards to children’s and youth ministry at Peace and our future direction. Our church staff has been working diligently to begin implementing some of the most critical pieces of feedback. We are excited to form Youth Ministry Advisory Council to support in guiding our work moving forward.

In this year, I believe God is going to bring a tremendous renewing and reviving work to the people of Peace. I ask that you would join me in faith for the financial, emotional, physical and spiritual provision for this to become a reality for our children, youth, and families of the Peace community.

I feel tremendously blessed to be a part of this wonderful church family. It is a joy to serve with so many wonderful people.

“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21

In service,

Brendan Nelson, Director of Children’s, Youth and Family Ministry

Community Meals and Resources Ministry

People of Peace,

The Peace Community Resource Ministry began its second year February 1, 2020. It has been a time of great results: helping our guests find a home here at Peace Lutheran church, forming a steering committee, and making connections with the community.

We have also experienced the disappointment of not finding a funding source, but thanks to the generosity and support of the congregation we are carrying on.

Thank you all for your support, providing meals, volunteering, and donating financially.

Blessings,

Teri Jelinek, Community Resources Ministry Coordinator

Wednesday Evenings in Lent

Starting March 4, for five Wednesdays until April 1, here’s the schedule:

- 6:00 pm Simple Soup Supper
- 6:30 pm Intergenerational Activity of Prayer and Service
- 7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer (adults), Faith Activity (kids)
- 7:30 pm Depart in peace...

Simple Soup Supper: At 6 pm, we will gather in the multipurpose room to share fellowship and a simple supper, a modified fast for Lent. To help with the supper: Sign up at the Koinonia Corner to provide a soup and bread one Wednesday.

Intergenerational Activity: At 6:30 pm, from the youngest to the oldest, we will join together in activities that help us reach out to our neighbors in prayer and service. Here is the schedule for the intergenerational activities:

- Wednesday March 4. Theme: Prayer. Activity: Prayer Walk. Groups will gather to walk together in the neighborhood, read scripture, and pray needs and thanksgivings. We also reflect on Lenten questions: What will you give up? What will you take on to grow deeper in relationship with God this Lent?

- Wednesday March 11. Theme: World Service. Activity: 30 Hour Famine Exercise. Youth will help lead us in exercises to better understand world hunger and our faithful response..

- Wednesday March 18. Theme: Community Service. Activity: Sock & Stock Drive. We will learn about the crisis of homelessness in Tacoma and discuss how we might faithfully respond. NOTE: we are collecting items socks, blankets, and non-perishable food items to stock the micro-shelter pantry for folks experiencing homelessness—due March 18 in the church office.

- Wednesday March 25. Theme: Community Service. Activity: Letters of Hope for Living Stones. We will learn about the Living Stones prison congregation and fellowship, and we will write letters of hope to incarcerated men and families.

- Wednesday April 11. Theme: Prayer. Activity: Prayer Walk. Groups will gather to walk together in the neighborhood and pray for the Hilltop community. We will also reflect on how Lent has helped us grow in faith and service to God. What did we give up? What did we take on?

Faith Activity for Kids—Journey to the Cross: At 7 pm, children and youth are invited to go on a Journey to the Cross with Jesus. Each participant will receive a special bag, and each Wednesday a new symbolic piece will be added to the bag to help tell the story of Jesus’ suffering and death and his deep love for us. Youth are invited to help children or go to the Holden Evening Prayer service.

Holden Evening Prayer: At 7 pm, adults and youth are invited to the sanctuary for a beautiful sung evening prayer service that originated at Holden Village, a Lutheran retreat center in the Cascade mountains. Come, quiet your hearts, and connect with God.
Peace Community Center Highlight

People of Peace,

Thank you for your strong partnership during this exciting time of year! Joy is flowing through our programs at every level, from our seniors getting acceptance letters from colleges to our elementary students spending more time outside in the sun.

As the school year continues, there are many ways you can get involved with our programs. We are currently seeking community feedback as we draft our new 5-year strategic plan! Keep an eye out for upcoming dates for our Community Forums, where you are invited to share your thoughts on the resources available to the Hilltop community. For questions, please contact Peace Community Center’s Executive Director L. Denice Randle at denice@peacecommunitycenter.org.

You are also invited to attend Learners to Leaders 2020! This is our annual fundraising dinner where we gather as a community to celebrate and support our incredible Hilltop Scholars. The theme this year is Level Up, and our 8th grade scholar Tion explains it as “Level up is when you get better at specific things, like when your grade goes up. Hilltop Scholars is helping me get my grades up because we have extra time for homework.” For more information and to register for Learners to Leaders 2020, visit: http://peacecommunitycenter.org/events

Thank you for supporting our students as they continue to learn and grow with us. We look forward to seeing what this new season will bring for our students.

In partnership,

Peace Community Center

Music Ministry - the Lenten Journey

People of Peace,

Since I have been serving the Peace Lutheran family as the music director for the past several months I am thankful for the opportunity. It’s been a pleasure getting to know everyone, working with the choir and musicians. It’s my desire to continue to deepen my relationship with the Lord which will enhance the praise and worship experience.

As we move into Lent it gives us a chance to reflect, recommit and renew our hearts. Psalm 51:10, “Create in me a clean heart O God and renew right spirit within me.”

Blessings,

Twylla Moore, Music Director

Opportunities to Serve & Give

Community Resources Ministry

Peace offers a free community meal with community resources Fridays 3:30–6:30 pm. Want to support this ministry?

- With a group, provide and serve a meal. OR invite a church or organization to provide and serve a meal for 60 people.
- Come eat, help serve, and share fellowship and God’s love.
- If you have a Fred Meyer rewards card please link it to Peace. Go to www.fredmeyer.com, community rewards, and enter Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church or key in Fk117. Questions? Contact Teri Jelinek (tljelinek50@gmail.com, 206-718-6109).

April Community Meals

The Community Meal Program runs weekdays in April from 5:30–6:30 pm. Come, eat and share conversation with community folks, listen and encourage, and help clean up.

Help Lead Worship

Interested in serving God by ushering, reading scripture, or being assisting minister in Sunday morning worship? Sign up at the Koinonia Corner. If you have not been trained to usher or be assisting minister, speak with Pastor John.

Help Lead Music for Worship

- Sing in the Gospel Choir Want to lift up your voice to praise God in worship? Come to Gospel Choir rehearsals Thursdays at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary. Sing at 11 am worship on 2nd and 4th Sundays. Contact Twylla Moore for more information, twylla@peacetacoma.com.
- Be a Musician or Song Leader Contact Twylla Moore or Victoria Frimpong (vfrimpong1976@gmail.com)

Lenten Soup Suppers

Sign up at the Koinonia Corner to bring soup and bread for the soup suppers 6 pm on Wednesdays March 4 – April 1. Questions? Ask Nancy Heavey, 752-8450.

Our Lenten Offering

Our offering this Lent is for Living Stones prison congregation and fellowship. Please give to “Peace Lutheran Church,” earmarked “Lent Offering.”

Who’s Who on the Peace Lutheran Church Staff

Pastor: John Stroeh, 253-383-1517 ext. 101, pastorjohn@peacetacoma.org
Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministry: Brendan Nelson, 253-383-1517 ext 103, brendan@peacetacoma.org
Intergenerational Outreach Coordinator: Jae Bates, jae@peacecommunitycenter.org
Music Director: Twylla Moore, twylla@peacetacoma.org
Music Ministry Scheduler: Victoria Frimpong, vfrimpong1976@gmail.com
Nursery Attendant: Rebecca Valencia
Community Resources Coordinator: Teri Jelinek, tljelinek50@gmail.com
Office Coordinator: Damishe Greenwood-Walker, 253-383-1517 ext 100, plcadmin@peacetacoma.org
Finance Coordinator: Jenny Haferbecker, jenny@peacetacoma.org
Custodian: Ana Sanchez

Stay Connected with Peace Lutheran Church!

Find Us on Facebook Now! See ministry pictures, get updates, and stay on top of what’s going on!

Peace Lutheran Church Tacoma
Youth Ministry at Peace Lutheran Church
Stewardship Highlight

Caring for the gifts God has given us is a responsibility we all have as Christians. I look forward in my new role as Stewardship Chair on our church council offering ways we can work together to give thanks for God’s gifts to care for the gifts and to share what God has given us is what I plan to work toward this year.

During Lent we remember the ultimate gift Jesus gave by dying for us. Please join me by giving thanks and by spending time thinking of all that has been given to us and by being responsible by choosing to care for those gifts.

In God’s love,

Teresa Jackson, Stewardship Chairperson

Living Stones Fellowship

Living Stones is a worshipping community inside the walls of Washington State Correctional Center in Shelton, WA. It is a ministry of our Southwestern Washington Synod and is supported by our synod’s congregations. Worship is held weekly on Saturday evenings for persons choosing to worship with the men. If you would like to attend you may contact Sandi Nolte at livingstonesassistant@outlook.com to sign up and receive more information. Background checks are required for anyone interested in visiting Living Stones.

Recently, Living Stones has started two additions to the ministry. Stepping Stones is a non-profit working toward supporting men as they transition into society. Living Stones Prison Ministries is a worshipping group of newly released men and women along with family or friends of people presently incarcerated. We share a meal, fellowship together, offer support through prayer and conversation, and enjoy worship and song. Living Stones Fellowship meets at Peace Lutheran Church in one our classrooms from 6-8 pm every first Sunday. It is my blessing and pleasure to be a part of this important ministry and my hope is that you will choose to be part of it in some way.

In God’s love,

Teresa Jackson, Stewardship Board Chair

Women’s Ministry

Our Women’s Bible Study is held the second Thursday of each month at 10 am. We study together the lesson in each month’s Gather magazine. Copies are available for those who do not have the magazine.

We pray for each other and offer prayers for others. After our session we share light refreshments together (sack lunches are brought from home or lunch is provided by a study member). It is a wonderful time of fellowship and learning. Please plan to join us.

In God’s love,

Teresa Jackson, Women’s Ministry

From the Church Council

Dear People of Peace,

We thank you for your prayers and input as we serve, especially for our Council retreat on February 7 & 8. It was a blessing to spend time together, listen to the Holy Spirit, and reflect on how Peace can best continue our ministries.

At the retreat, Council began what will be ongoing work alongside the newly formed Vision and Future Directions Team. Bill Hanawalt leads the team of Andie Lyons, Jae Bates, Kamari Carroll, Malcolm Carroll, Sally Perkins, Trevor Ragochi, and ex officio members Brendan Nelson, Pastor John Stroeh, and Kit Thompson. They meet monthly to spend time in scripture study, conversation, and prayer to discern more specifically, what it means for Peace to live into our Vision statement as we walk into the future.

Our time at the retreat focused on these questions: Given our vision, commitment to multiethnic ministry, and the reality of Hilltop gentrification, what questions should we be asking? Where are we going from here?

We had a good basis for our discussion thanks to thoughts from the Peace congregation and community, particularly responses to the:

- Sabbatical Survey – what you miss about Pastor Louise, what you enjoyed, what would you like to see continued, what you are looking forward to with Pastor John.
- Multiethnic Ministry two-week Sunday morning class – gifts and blessings, marks of a Spirit-filled healthy multiethnic faith community, challenges experienced in Peace’s multiethnic ministry, and what is God calling Peace to do in the future as we seek to be a Spirit-filled and healthy multiethnic faith community.

We continue to live into our vision – We believe that God’s vision for Peace is to be a diverse community of faith in the Hilltop where all are welcome: a community that is Spirit-filled, compassionate, healthy, reconciled and just. Please feel free to talk with a member of Council or the Vision and Future Directions Team about any these topics.

God’s Peace,

Kit Thompson, Council President

Your 2020 Church Council: President – Kit Thompson, Vice President – Alma Cox Crawford, Treasurer – Ben Flesher, Secretary – Antonio Yune, Community Resources – Carmen Lumpham, Education – Malcolm Carroll, Evangelism/Outreach – Hans Brockhoff; In-reach – Jeanie Correa; Stewardship – Teresa Jackson, Worship – Irene Manley; Youth – Karrena Gillis

Mission Statement

Compelled by the love of God and our faith in Jesus Christ, Peace Lutheran Church, a diverse people of faith, in partnership with Peace Community Center, seeks to realize God’s dream for the world through worship, learning, giving, and serving.

Core Values…

Serve with COURAGE
Embrace DIVERSITY
Cultivate COMMUNITY
Seek JUSTICE

Vision Statement

We believe God’s vision for Peace is to be a diverse community of faith in the Hilltop where all are welcome: a community that is Spirit-filled, compassionate, healthy, reconciled, and just.