

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church
2106 South Cushman Ave
Tacoma, WA 98405

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THE CALL TO PEACE

Volume 17 ▪ Issue 2 ▪ Summer 2021

Summer Bible Adventure! (also known as Vacation Bible School)

Two days only! Friday-Saturday, August 20-21
More details coming soon!

Kids and families, come for a time to learn about God and have fun!
Free! Registration will start mid-summer.

Free Vaccination Clinic at Peace Lutheran Church: Friday June 4, 3 - 7 pm, COVID Pfizer vaccines. Ages 12 and up. There is an online registration, and walk-ins also accepted. Free clothing and a meal from 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Sponsored by Peace Lutheran Church, Peace Community Center, and Hilltop Action Coalition in collaboration with Bird's Eye Medical and the Washington State Dept. of Health.

Church and Center Office Closed Mondays: Office Coordinator Damishe has shifted to a four-day 10 hour/day work week. The Office is now closed on Mondays. Please bring any office-related questions to her Tuesday through Friday, 8:30 am-5 pm.

Contribute to a New Peace Devotional: Calling all artists, writers, photographers, song writers, crafters of many things, & more, to publish your works in a new book. Submit your piece or direct questions to Shari Shelton at 8ssheltonz8@gmail.com.

Favorite Songs: Do you have a favorite song of faith you would like to be incorporated in worship in the future? Please email Music Director Twylla Moore at twylla@peacetacoma.org.



Peace Lutheran Church Worship

Join live stream Sunday worship at 11 am on the church Facebook page, or check out the video of the worship service later on the church Facebook page or YouTube channel (if you haven't yet, subscribe to our YouTube channel), or follow the link on our website.

Summer Outdoor Worship!

Outside on the corner lot (21st and S. Ainsworth)
The third Sunday of each month in the summer
June 20, July 18, August 15 at 11 am

Bring a chair (or use one provided).
Wear a mask. Social distance. Give thanks to God!
We will also live-stream these services as usual.

During this COVID pandemic, our prayers are with families who have lost loved ones, all who suffer, and all who respond in care. All public gatherings at Peace have been canceled. Please check the church website www.peacelutherantacoma.org, Facebook page (Facebook Peace Lutheran Tacoma), or YouTube channel for online worship videos and faith resources.



Peace Lutheran
Church



Pastor's Reflection

People of Peace,

“As Jesus came near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, ‘If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace!’” – Luke 19:41-42

Paul writes, “Let us then pursue what makes for peace...” – Romans 14:19

We are **Peace** Lutheran Church, and we serve in close partnership with **Peace** Community Center. It’s good to reflect now and then on the question, “What are the things that make for **peace**?” In a recent Peace Community Center Board meeting, the opening devotional as a Board was an opportunity for each of us to complete the phrase, “Making peace is like...” Here are some responses: Making peace is like...



- being a mother, done with loving kindness and persistence
- rounding up stray chickens
- placing your feet in a cool river on a hot sunny day
- bringing everyone together as one to find common ground
- tending a garden - understanding each plant, the relationships between the living things and the land, and a continual battle to pull weeds
- living with a teenager
- sharing calmness, stillness, rest and love wherever you go
- a community barn-raising project.

How would you complete the phrase, “Making peace is like...”? After that reflection, Keri Anderson read a poem she wrote called, “Give Peas a Chance” that was part of the Peace Lutheran Church devotional book published a few years ago. (If you would like to share something of yours for the next Peace devotional coming soon, please make your submission to Shari Shelton at 8ssheltonz8@gmail.com.)

Making peace
is not like making a sandwich
Taking two pieces of bread
sliding some peanut butter on one side
Jelly on the other,
press ‘em together and bam!
Lunchtime!

Making peace is more like
taming a garden,
a wild animal,
a desperate fear
It takes courage to bring
different sides together
to break bread instead of bones

to speak hope in the face of fear.

Today I will choose patience
I'll pull the weeds and plant the flowers
I'll sow contentment.
I'll be rooted in the beauty of the earth
and watered with honest tears,
Today I love deeply and often and much
till the fruit wells up in my life
and everyone can eat and be filled
with snappy green peas.

Sure PBJ is faster.
But in my neighborhood
I will plant peace.

How is God calling you to work for peace in our community, pursue the things that make for peace?

It’s the 20th anniversary of Peace Community Center! On Saturday June 5 at 11 am we plant and bless a tree outside the church at this milestone on our journey. We’ve come this far by faith, and God is leading us into the future as we continue to extend God’s peace into our Hilltop neighborhood. Thanks be to God for our Peace Community Center and its dedicated Board of Directors, which includes five members of Peace Lutheran Church—Keri Anderson, Charissa Carroll, Terry Edwards, Rebecca Foster, and Julia Kagochi—and myself as ex-officio Board member. Please keep the Board, staff, students, families, and work of Peace Community Center in your prayers as we move into the future.

In the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace who calls us to be peacemakers, *Pastor John*

Peace Summer Calendar

June

June 4th (Friday)	3-7 pm Vaccination Clinic at Peace
June 5th (Saturday)	11 am Tree Blessing Ceremony
June 6th (Sunday)	11 am Blessing of Graduates
June 13th (Sunday)	11 am End of School Year Blessing
June 20th (Sunday)	11 am Outdoor Worship at Peace, Confirmation Sunday, Father’s Day!
June 27th-July 2nd	Love to the Local: the Remix—youth servant learning week in the Hilltop

July

July 1st-2nd	Love to the Local: the Remix (continued)
July 18th (Sunday)	11 am Outdoor Worship at Peace

August

August 15th (Sunday)	11 am Outdoor Worship at Peace
August 20th-21st (Friday-Saturday)	Summer Bible Adventure

September

September 12th (Sunday)	Rally Sunday (Sunday School starts again)
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Opportunities to Grow in Faith

Faith Opportunities for Adults Sundays 9:30-10:30 am (Zoom)

Called to Hear: Join a Zoom study on the ELCA’s social statement “The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries,” led by Malcolm Carroll, Pastor John, and Pastor Jae. This presents a comprehensive perspective on matters related to the US criminal justice system and the church. This scripture-based five-session guide with videos helps us explore and be moved to action. **Email Pastor John for Zoom link.**

Community Bible Study Pastor John and Pastor Jae lead a Community Bible Study using Zoom on **Thursdays, 1-2 pm**, on the Bible readings for worship the following Sunday. We read scripture, share conversation, and pray as we listen for God to speak to us and through us. Email Pastor John for the Zoom link. The Community Bible Study will take a break in July and August.

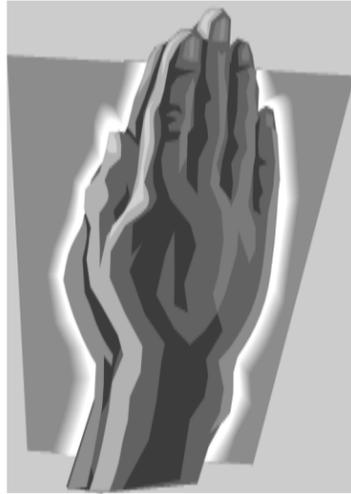
Christ in Our Home Would you like to receive a copy of the daily devotional “Christ in Our Home.” Contact Damishe in the office, and she will mail you one.

Godly Play Videos for Children Parents, have you checked out the Peace Lutheran Church YouTube channel? You will find Godly Play Bible story videos with wondering questions to use at home with your children. Questions? Contact Brendan Nelson.

Middle and High School Youth: A middle and high school youth “Change Makers” group meets Wednesdays at 5 pm. Questions? Please contact Brendan Nelson.

Philippians 4:6

⁶Do not worry **about anything**,
but in everything
by prayer
and supplication
with thanksgiving
let your requests be made
known to God.



Remember in Prayer

Those who celebrate...

- All graduates of Peace Church & Center!
- The Peace community as we reach out in love to Hilltop families this summer

Those who are hurting...

- All affected by the pandemic especially the ill and families, medical professionals, public health workers, governments and agencies working to stop this health threat, our congregation and community
- Communities of color impacted disproportionately by COVID; all who suffer racial injustice
- The hungry, all suffering economic poverty, the incarcerated, those without homes, all without hope...
- All who grieve the death of loved ones
- All who are ill, facing surgery, recovering from hospitalization, for healing
- All who struggle financially, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually, for hope
- All who live midst violence, war, or unrest, especially the people of Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Iraq, Ukraine, the Holy Land, and Central African Republic

Our work...

- Our ministries in community development, especially in affordable housing
- Our ministry of sharing Jesus' love with children, youth, and families
- Our work for justice and peace in our world, building bridges among people

Partners in mission & service...

- Peace Community Center - tutoring, mentoring, supporting Hilltop families
- Our global partners: Davis family in Africa, Rev. Jane Kagochi in Kenya, our companion synod in Namibia, the church in South Sudan, the church in China, Sevigny family in Japan, House of Prayer Navajo Lutheran Church in AZ
- Living Stones prison congregation in Shelton
- Faith Action Network leading in advocacy for justice for all, and for political leaders

For the complete list, see Sunday's bulletin.

A Word from the Reopening Task Force

A big thanks from the Reopening Task Force to all who responded to the survey of the congregation at Easter time. The task force is closely monitoring the number of COVID cases in Pierce County, the vaccination rate, and other factors as we work towards resuming in-person worship. When we resume in-person worship, we will continue to offer online worship for those not able to worship in person. The survey results show a high vaccination rate within the congregation, which helps the task force be confident that with appropriate precautions (masks, space, airflow, and reduced capacity) we can safely resume in-person worship relatively soon; however since the COVID rate in Pierce County is currently so high we are not yet able to set a date.

God's Blessings!

The Reopening Task Force:

Joseph Anderson, Carol Watson, Ben Flesher, Brendan Nelson, Pastor Jae, Pastor John

Community Resources Ministry

The Community Resources Ministry has actually expanded its ministry during this pandemic year. Thanks to the generous hearts of our church family and St. Mark's by the Narrows we have provided bagged lunches and hygiene kits to those living on the streets of Tacoma. Damishe has taken hot meals every Friday evening to the tent areas in our neighborhood. Myrah Ballentine has provided hygiene kits which are handed out the second Friday of every month.



We have also provided hot breakfasts and lunches from food provided by Immanuel Community Church. We have received generous donations for hygiene kits and the clothing ministry along with prepared dinners by the Sri Sathya Sai organization from Sammamish. It is so gratifying to be a part of this ministry that continues to grow and adapt to the needs of our community.

Community Meals and Resources

Friday Community Meals are "grab and go" style at the door every Friday, 5:30-6:30 pm. We are also sharing information about accessing community resources and services during the COVID pandemic.

Thank you all for your support and generosity.

Teri Jelínek, Community Resources Coordinator

Outreach Ministry Update

With nicer weather on the way I look forward to visiting on the sidewalk with neighbors in our community. It's an opportunity to be available to them to hear how they are doing and for us to offer information about what is happening at our Church and Community Center.

God bless you!

Teresa Jackson

Music Ministry

Hello Peace Family,

The scripture says in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, “ To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose **under** the heaven: A **time** to be born, **and a time** to die; a **time** to plant, **and a time** to pluck up that which is planted; A **time** to kill, **and a time** to heal; a **time** to break down, **and a time** to build up; A **time** to weep, **and a time** to laugh; yes a time to laugh.



It goes on to say “a **time** to mourn, **and a time** to dance;

A **time** to cast away stones, **and a time** to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.”

This scripture has touched all of us in one way or another over the past year and this is just a reminder to bring in the season of laughter as much as possible. Although the choir has not come together in person, the music has continued consistently. A special thanks to the musicians Paul Brown (bass player), William Hall (drummer), and Austin Shelton (saxophonist), Kathy Hanawalt (pianist), and Dorothy White (pianist) for your continued faithfulness and support. Also special thanks to all the song leaders that have been a huge support to the music ministry. In addition, I appreciate the feedback, cards, notes and words of encouragement from the Peace Family.

With the challenges of isolation, schedule disruptions, etc., use laughter as a medicine. Proverbs 17:22 says “A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones.” Laughter decreases stress hormones and increases immune cells and infection-fighting antibodies, thus improving your resistance to disease.

Laughter is music to the soul !!!! So stress less and laugh more this summer.

God bless,

Twylla Moore, Music Director



Peace Community Center

People of Peace,

As we continue to celebrate Peace Community Center’s 20th anniversary, we want to take some time to reflect and honor the faith community from which we were born. Thank you for your time, financial support, feedback, and involvement throughout our history, which has allowed us to grow into the Center we are today, empowering future success for Hilltop Scholars and their families..



Hilltop Scholar Graduating Senior

We want to extend a special invitation to you for our upcoming tree blessing ceremony in celebration of our 20 years of service in the Hilltop neighborhood. You may remember that when our Center was first created, Pastor Plaehn planted and blessed a tamarisk tree in front of our shared building. Unfortunately, the tree was removed for the building expansion several years ago.

This Summer, we will plant another tree as a permanent symbol of our commitment to serving Scholars and families. We hope you will join us **from 11:00am-12:00pm on June 5th at Peace Community Center** as we celebrate our history, appreciate our growth, and bless the future years of our Center. You can participate either in-person (all local public health guidelines will be followed) or by watching it on Facebook Live. Registration information for this free event can be found on our website at <https://peacecommunitycenter.org>. We are also excited to share that our program staff have been working hard to plan a robust Summer Academy for our Scholars! As our hardworking Scholars work to finish the school year strong, they can look forward to a fun summer of engaging STEAM enrichments and interactive activities. You can look forward to more info on this, and on our graduating seniors’ post-grad plans, in our next newsletter coming our soon! Thank you for all the ways you continue to support our Scholars and their families, both individually and collectively. You are an important part of our work that helps our community thrive.

Sincerely,

Peace Community Center

From Our Intern Pastor

Dear People of Peace,

I’m excited to enter into summer and have more opportunities to see you all (safely) face to face. My studies at Luther are halfway done which means my internship is halfway done as well. It feels surreal and I am looking forward to the many ways I will grow and the opportunities I will have to serve. In particular, I’m looking forward to our second Love to the Local event and opportunities for socially distanced, outdoor worship. COVID continues to keep us on our toes and I continue to serve on the Reopening Task force as well as our Future Directions Committee. This summer I will also look forward to finally being able to return to Minnesota during my summer intensive!



I’m looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Jae Bates, Intern Pastor

What's Been Happening at Peace Lutheran Church?



Easter Sunrise outdoor worship!



Sharing Holy Communion outside



Easter Cross



Stations of the Cross Hilltop Walk led by Pastor Jae



Easter Eggstravaganza Grab and Go Easter activities for children

Our regular April Community Meals team preparing to deliver meals

Who's Who on the Peace Lutheran Church Staff

- Pastor: John Stroeh, 253-383-1317 ext 101, pastorjohn@peacetacoma.org
- Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministry: Brendan Nelson, 253-383-1317 ext 103, brendan@peacetacoma.org
- Intern Pastor: Jae Bates, jae@peacecommunitycenter.org
- Music Director: Twylla Moore, twylla@peacetacoma.org
- Nursery Attendant: Rebecca Valencia, rebecca@peacetacoma.org
- Office Coordinator: Damishe Greenwood-Walker, 253-383-1317 ext 100, plcadmin@peacetacoma.org
- Community Resources Coordinator: Teri Jelinek, tljelinek50@gmail.com
- Finance Coordinator: Jenny Haferbecker, jenny@peacetacoma.org
- Custodian: Ana Sanchez

Youth Ministry Update

Peace Family,
 As we enter into summer, I am always looking for volunteer leaders to serve in youth ministry. I believe that solid ministry is built on relationships between caring adults and youth. Relationships are key to a young person feeling loved and understanding God's love in practical ways. This is when real spiritual growth takes place in their life.



While on my leave, I continued to lead the Change Makers group on Wednesday evenings and I have to say that it has been such a blessing to spend time with these young people and to hear stories about the opportunities they have had to share their faith in "little" and "big" ways. I have also enjoyed how we all organically connect and have total trust with each other.

During our time together, we have discussed plans for a week of service that will take place June 27th - July 2nd 2021. We have decided to call it Love to the Local: The Remix. This will build on the work we started last year and include some new opportunities for a meaningful service immersion week. I always look forward to this time as we truly do God's work with our hands. I solicit your prayers as we embark on an amazing journey and ask that you keep our young people encouraged.

Thank you all for the continued love and support. Peace and Blessings,
Brendan Nelson, Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry

Inreach Ministry



Care minister Kit Thompson visits Dagmar Williams after her surgery

More time has passed since we have gathered in person, and as we navigate through our COVID restrictions... the **Inreach Program** at Peace is limited. However, there are many of us that continue to be major parts of Peace's operation. We all have been totally blessed with your (their) willingness to serve. I continue to reach out to people through the Care Ministry, Clothing Bank, Papers at Peace Card Ministry, and other related programs that help keep people connected. The Clothing Bank has taken on more of a presence than I would have ever imagined. We have been blessed by helping those in need, and we receive such praise for our work. However, I am reminded that it is my job or even your job to reach out to others, to be kind, to be of service, etc. Robin McGaughy has been a BIG part in helping with the program. We continue to ask for new underwear (used bras are perfect). The men especially need supplies.

I cannot wait until we are together again, and I will be recruiting individuals to help in the kitchen, with Sunday snacks, Sunday breakfasts, Altar Guild, Koinonia Table, and much more... **See where I am going...We need you!!** Please think how you can serve at Peace. Every little bit helps!!! BE safe, wash your hands, think about being vaccinated, etc.... We will get there.

Peace and Love, *Jeanie Correa*

If you would like to receive your newsletters by e-mail only to help us save on postage costs, save trees, and our earth's limited resources please contact the church office at plcadmin@peacetacoma.org or at (253) 383-1317.

Future Directions Update

The Future Directions team has met since January 2020 to prayerfully discern where God is leading us as a church in ministry into the future. The team created a Foundational Commitment to Antiracism, approved by the Church Council in March. The team is now preparing to bring final recommendations for future ministry to the Church Council at its June meeting. The recommendations will be grounded in the Foundational Commitment to Antiracism and will relate to three focus areas: Ministry of Place, Priesthood of All Believers, and Catechism of Peace. Very soon, the Future Directions team will complete its work and the Council, staff, and congregation will seek to implement the recommendations. In many ways, this is just the beginning. To make this Foundational Commitment and these recommendations more than just words, please consider how you will help make these happen!

Serving with you in God's ministry at Peace, *The Future Directions Team*

Adult Education Ministry

I'm grateful to God for the opportunities for Adult Education that Peace has been able to continue to offer during this past year.

Most recently the Focus Group Committee (Joanne McWilson, Gretchen Duggan, Pat Ferguson and Pastor John) supported our Focus Group Facilitators (Pastor Jae, Kit Thompson and Bill Hanawalt) as the facilitators led engaging, faith forming small groups this past Spring.

Looking at the end of spring and this upcoming summer, there are a few offerings that I'd like to bring to the community's attention.

On Sundays during the Adult Forum hour 9:30 to 10:30 am "**Called to Hear: A Faithful Response to Criminal Injustice**" (May 23rd, May 30th, June 13th, June 27th) this is a curriculum developed by the national expression of our church the ELCA. Come join us for the last four sessions. Led by Pastor John, Pastor Jae and myself with guest leading by Pastor Chris Ode of the Living Stones congregation that gathers inside the walls of Washington Corrections Center in Shelton Washington on June 13th.

Sunday June 6th – We will join in the celebration of Pastor Louise's Ordination and Installation as Pastor of Ocean Park Lutheran Church via YouTube at 9:30am.

Sunday July 11th – Brendan Nelson and Peace Youth share their reflections from this summer's service-learning experience.

Sunday July 25th – Future Directions Team shares the recommendations they have prayerfully worked on in serving the mission and vision of Peace Lutheran.

Outdoor Worship June 20th, July 18th, August 15th – NO CLASS on these Sundays

All other Sundays until August 29th – Dwelling in God's Word. Lectio Divina approach to a segment of scripture from readings for Sunday worship.

On Zoom until further notice - All classes, as of the printing of this newsletter, will be on Zoom. If you are interested in attending, please email Pastor John for the Zoom link at pastorjohn@peacetacoma.org.

Come say hello - we will continue open the "Zoom Room" for fellowship at 9:00am for 30 minutes of unstructured conversation and catching up on the Sundays we have class. All are welcome to come say hi whether you stay for class or not.

Compelled by Christ's love to serve side by side with you,

Malcolm Carroll

From the Church Council

Dear People of Peace,

In a daily devotion on the Luther Seminary website, Pastor Jeffery Gaustad, a pastor at Trinity Lutheran in Parkland wrote in part, It's love for one another that makes us family and holds us together. The same holds true in the family of God. It's love that makes us family and holds us together—God's love, expressed and lived out in our care, respect, and love for one another.

Loving, caring, and respecting one another has looked different this past year because of the pandemic. The Peace family has really stepped up and found ways to express God's love in ways that were new and unique. We have been holding together and now there are glimmers of hope that God's family at Peace will be able to worship in person very soon.

During these past months, the Council has been working on updating our policies and looking at how to ensure equitable compensation for paid staff of Peace Lutheran Church. We are very close to completing both parts, thanks in large part, to a committee ably chaired by Pam Asadi. Thank you all.

Future Directions team has presented their work and offered suggestions for how we might accomplish the goals recommended. The congregation will soon be hearing more about this and hopefully each person will see concrete ways in which to participate moving into the future.

The Reopening Task Force is anxious to get us back to in-person worship and has been working to make that as safe and smooth as possible when the time is right. Hopefully very soon.

Please bring questions, concerns, ideas to your Church Council. We are all listed in the directory and on the Church's webpage.

With great hope and gratitude,

Again, from the devotion by Pastor Gaustad:

Prayer: Loving God, through Christ you make us sisters and brothers, a family revealing your love through our care, respect, and love for one another. Increase your love within us, that all may come to see and know you through us. Amen. God's Peace,

Carol Watson, Council President

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**

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.**