

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

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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Permit No. 40

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

- The **5th-6th grade** Explorers class,
- The **7th-8th grade** Feet to Faith confirmation class, and
- The **adult education** class.

Children: Each week we post Godly Play Bible story videos with wondering questions on our YouTube channel for families to use at home.

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

Adult Study on Sundays at 9:30 am During Lent – “Baptized, We Live”

On our Lenten journey on **Sundays February 21 through March 28 at 9:30 am via Zoom**, we offer an opportunity to explore key Lutheran insights for life using a booklet by Dan Erlander called ***Baptized, We Live: Lutheranism as a Way of Life***. We will cover four topics: A Way of Seeing, A Way of Hearing, A Way of Teaching, and A Way of Following. Malcolm Carroll, Pastor John, and Pastor Jae will lead this adult series. Please participate! We will share rich conversation around faith in this holy season of Lent. If you would like a participant booklet, please contact Pastor John.

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 & through us. Email Pastor John for the Zoom link.

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

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.

THE CALL TO PEACE

Volume 17 ▪ Issue 1 ▪ Lent 2021



**Saturday April 3 from 11 am - 12:30 pm
Easter Eggstravaganza to Go!!**

Families with children, stop by the church on Easter Saturday April 3 between 11 am and 12:30 pm to pick up your grab-and-go Easter brunch and special Easter bag of goodies with Easter eggs, an Easter craft, and most importantly, the Easter story of God raising Jesus to life after his death on the cross! Special prize if you get the golden egg!

Lent, Holy Week & Easter Worship Services

- + **Wednesday, February 17 - Ash Wednesday**
12 - 1 pm Receive Ashes on the forehead or back of hand at a station outside the church building
7 pm Live-Stream Worship (Church Facebook page) – We begin Lent with confession, prayer, and Communion. Please prepare bread & wine or grape juice for Communion at home.
8 - 8:30 pm Receive Ashes at a station outside the church building. **In-person Communion** is also available.
- + **Sunday, March 28 - Palm/Passion Sunday**
11 am Live-Stream Worship (Church Facebook page) - We tell the story of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem and then his suffering and death.
- + **Thursday, April 1 - Maundy Thursday**
7 pm Live-Stream worship (Church Facebook page) - We tell the story of Jesus’ last supper, where he washes his disciples’ feet and commands them to love one another, and we share Communion. Please prepare bread & wine or grape juice for Communion at home.
8 - 8:30 pm In-person Communion is available at a station outside the church building.
- + **Friday, April 2 - Good Friday**
7 pm Live-Stream Worship (Church Facebook page) - We tell the story of Jesus’ suffering and death on the cross and God’s deep and abiding love for us.
- + **Sunday, April 4 - Easter Sunday!!**
Bring cut flowers to adorn the cross outside the church.
11 am Live-Stream Worship (Church Facebook page) - We tell the story of the empty tomb and God’s power for life over death, and we share Communion! Jesus is risen! Please prepare bread & wine or grape juice for Communion at home.
12 - 1 pm In-person Communion is available at a station outside the church building.



Peace Lutheran
Church



Pastor John's Reflection

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."
-- Matthew 11:28

People of Peace,

When we reach mid-March this year, it will have been one year since we suspended all in-person public gatherings at Peace and started online worship due to the pandemic. The virus has kept us apart for so long and wounded so many in our community, nation, and world—especially the most vulnerable. We have had to learn how to be church virtually while continuing ministries of care and connection in creative ways. As I mentioned in a recent sermon, to not be able to worship with you and our community in person, week after week, takes a toll on our community, takes a toll on me. Are you weary? I'm weary. I miss you. I miss our gathered community. I can't wait for this time to end.

At the same time, I'm hopeful. People are starting to get vaccinated. I'm praying we will address the struggles and inequities in distributing the vaccine. We're able to begin to see our way to a better future. If you need help checking your eligibility, scheduling an appointment, or getting to an appointment, please contact Brendan Nelson. As vaccinations increase and virus cases decrease, there will come the day when we're able to reopen for in-person worship while maintaining our online worship presence for those who prefer that.

I'm grateful we have a Reopening Task Force that meets regularly to prayerfully wrestle with the question of when and how to reopen in-person worship and to discern how best to move forward with the needs of our whole community for health and connection in mind. Out of these conversations over time has come a strong emphasis for our community to take safety precautions for the good of all and get Covid vaccinations as soon as possible for those who are eligible for the good of all, the possibility of meeting in social-distanced small groups and of one-on-one masked connections with staff and other caring folks, the opportunity for in-person Holy Communion the first Sunday of the month, and plans now for ways we can help our community acknowledge our burdens of grief and loss on our upcoming Lenten journey on the long road to healing and wholeness. Jesus promises us in our weariness and in the burdens we bear that he will give us rest.

The season of Lent begins Ash Wednesday February 17 (live-stream 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. During Lent, we often give up some things (fast) in order to pay closer attention to our relationship with God. Lent is also a time of reflection, looking inward, self-care, and solitude. For a second year in a row, part of our Lenten practice includes giving up in-person worship and other in-person church gatherings and leaning in to listen to God as we continue to care for one another in the pandemic. We look forward to hearing the good news of hope and new life in Jesus that Easter brings!

Blessed Lent and Easter,

Pastor John



In Reach Programs

IN REACH.... With the virus around us, my In-Reach Programs have taken a backseat for now. As we sit back and think about Peace, I would ask that you ponder how you might be willing to volunteer when we reopen again for in-person worship... Those positions for Sundays are: (1) making coffee; (2) washing dishes; (3) providing snacks for after the 11 service; (4) sitting at the Koinonia Table; and (5) other events that may arise.

The Care Ministry has been very busy during this time - making phone calls to members, providing services when needed, making and sending out cards, and providing meals. I am very grateful for all the help I have gotten to make this program a necessary part at Peace. If you want to be part of this team, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Card ministry Christmas card

One other event that I have been involved in is the Clothing Bank. We have been able to open up the doors and let a few individuals in at a time to get what clothing they may need. We have been available on Tuesday and Friday evenings. There is a great demand for Blankets or Sleeping Bags. If you happen to have those two items, we need them. We also have been trying to provide Hygiene kits at the Friday meals, once a month. If you are so willing to provide items for this, please contact Myrah at 253-283-1665. She would greatly appreciate your help.

Best to each and everyone of you. Peace is in my continued prayers and hope you are all doing well, being safe, wearing masks... I know we will all come out of this experience more appreciative of everything.

Peace and Love to all, *Jeanie Correa*

Evangelism & Outreach



Our church has reached out to the residents of the Alberta Canada building in the Hilltop. During the holidays we put together gift bags with small gift/craft items, treats, and a flyer of upcoming events the people would be welcome to attend or be part of at our church. There are 50 apartments in the building. Pastor John along with three members from our church delivered the bags. The residents were very pleased with the bags and with brief fellowship. Our church will be offering the same residents valentine packets with a valentine, candy, pencil, and pencil sharpener along with a flyer invite to our Friday community meal. It is with hope when it's possible to get together that we can offer fellowship in person for the residents and build relationships.

In God's love, *Teresa Jackson*, Evangelism/Outreach Chair

Social Justice Award

Peace Lutheran Church was blessed to receive a social justice award at the MLK Redeeming the Prophetic Vision event in January sponsored by The Conversation, Associated Ministries and Urban Grace Church. A note came with it: Dear Peace Lutheran Church, Your community work over the decades has been quiet but deliberate! Once again, thank you for all you have done and are doing! Wishing you continued fortitude in your quest to make a difference! Sincerely, The Conversation



What We've Been Up To!



Myrah, Teri, and Jeanie putting together hygiene kits to give out at the Friday

Godly
Play
children's
Bible
story



The Peace youth Change Makers group made blankets to give to folks in need in our community.



In-person Holy Communion after live-stream worship the first

Remember in Prayer

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

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-19; 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 experience sexual harassment or abuse...
- 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

Our work...

- Our ministries in affordable housing and community development
- 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 Hilltop kids
- Our global partners: Davis family in Uganda, Rev. Jane Kagochi in Kenya, our companion synod in Namibia, the church in South Sudan, the church in China, the Sevigny family in Japan, House of Prayer Navajo Lutheran Church in AZ, Ola Fou Church
- Living Stones prison congregation in Shelton
- Faith Action Network leading in advocacy for justice for all, and for political leaders

From Our Intern Pastor

Dear People of Peace,

Can you believe that we've been living in pandemic "mode" for about a year now? Things continue to develop and I hope I will be able to see you all in some capacity before too long. Nonetheless, I continue to urge you all to stay safe and stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccination efforts and statewide mandates. Although it will look different this year, I am looking forward to this Lenten season and our 2021 Holy Week plans. We have some creative ideas in the works such as a self-guided neighborhood Stations of the Cross walk. I will also be leading a Maundy Thursday evening service which I hope you will be able to attend.

This Spring, I will also be offering a Focus Group that will engage with sexuality and gender, especially as it pertains to LGBTQ identities. We will walk through conversations about sexuality and gender alongside scripture in an effort to approach a meaningful and healthy understanding of our LGBTQ neighbors.

I continue to journey through my hybrid, accelerated seminary program with Luther Seminary. Due to COVID-19, my program is 100% virtual for the foreseeable future but there are inklings of hope that I may be able to go to Minnesota for my Summer intensives. I appreciate your support and prayers as I work towards the completion of my program next year!

God's Peace & Blessings,

Jae Bates, Intern Pastor



Worship & Faith Resources During COVID-19



Join live-stream Sunday worship at 11 am on Sundays 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.

Each first Sunday of the month we offer an opportunity to receive Holy Communion in online worship. If you wish to share Communion on the first Sunday of the month, please prepare the elements of bread and wine or grape juice in your home prior to worship. Or, if you wish, stop by the church from between noon and 1 pm that Sunday to receive Communion in person outside the church door.

During this COVID-19 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 Family,

As we enter into this season of Lent, a time of reflection, a time of prayer and the reminder that our faith is founded on the principle that life cannot be found in ourselves but rather at the cross. We cannot do it on our own. Life is not found by our own means. Good works, giving something up, on its own it means nothing. Apart from Christ it gets us nowhere. Lent is about this realization. We don't measure up. We won't make it there on our own and we don't have to because Christ has already brought us to this place of fullness of life in Him by His death on the cross. I can't do it on my own and I don't need to.

This is a reminder of not only the redemptive story of Christ but also of our ministry here together at Peace. As I enter into the life of this congregation, I am reminded in this season that just as I can't and don't need to do it all for God, the same is true of the ministry you have invited me to be a part of. I can't do it on my own and praise God I don't need to.

First and foremost I have a God that has said, never will I leave you and never will I forsake you. He brought me here. He placed me in this congregation and He has given me the tools and provisions to do the work. And my belief is this, you are Gods provision. You are the gifts He has placed in my life to work alongside and to support, to grow with and to serve with and I am excited to be entering into this new story with each and every one of you. There are exciting things ahead and I invite you to step into the story with me as we explore new opportunities to support children, youth and families at Peace. I ask for your continued prayers, and if God might be calling you to get involved, come talk to me. I'd love to hear your ideas and explore ways for you to get involved. We do ministry together, not on our own. I look forward to a wonderful year of serving and growing together with you in 2021.

Blessings in Christ,

Brendan Nelson, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry



In worship, Brendan shows blankets made by

Community Meals and Resources Ministry

People of Peace,

The Peace Lutheran Community Resources Ministry is continuing with Friday Night to go dinners. Myrah Ballentine is collecting items for hygiene kits which are distributed on the second Friday of each month. Because of the pandemic we are not asking our partner churches to provide meals so if there is anyone who would be willing to prepare a meal please call Teri at 206-718-6109 or email tjelinek50@gmail.com.

We would like to thank everyone for their support: to all who contributed to the Daily Bread Hunger Grants, those contributing meals or helping serve, those giving their Fred Meyer rewards to the program and all those who support this ministry. So many of the people we serve have been impacted so much this past year and they know they can get a hot meal, clothes and toiletries on Friday evenings.

Blessings,

Teri Jelinek, Community Resources Ministry Coordinator



Peace youth cooking a Friday community meal



Online Worship Resource: Holden Evening Prayer

See the church website for a link or go to the church YouTube channel for a video of Holden Evening Prayer, a beautiful and contemplative evening prayer service that originated at Holden Village, a Lutheran retreat center in the Cascade mountains. Find some time, quiet your hearts, watch this worship video, and connect with God on the journey of Lent. Feel free to use this video for evening prayer regularly through the Lenten season.



Wednesday, March 17, 5-6 pm Stations of the Cross Walk and Grab-and-Go Soup

Come to the church to participate in a socially-distanced Stations of the Cross walk in the Hilltop, led by a church staff person (approximately one hour long). OR do the self-guided Stations of the Cross walk at another time of your choosing in the season of Lent. The walk will stop at locations throughout the Hilltop, remembering Jesus' last hours and moments up to his death on the cross.

After the Stations of the Cross walk at about 6 pm, grab some yummy soup to go.

Lenten Reflection Activity of Grief and Hope

To help us get in touch with the grief and loss we've experienced over the last year and commend it to God, you are invited to bring a written reflection, small piece of art, photo, picture, or small artifact to clip onto a hung display along the steps leading to the sanctuary during Lent. This is a creative expression of the laments and burdens we as a community have been carrying during the pandemic. On Good Friday, worship leaders will symbolically carry these burdens to the altar and lay them at the foot of the cross, to be transformed on Easter Sunday, a reminder of the new life, new chapters, and hope God brings us through the risen Christ! Please bring your contribution to the church during the office hours of Brendan Nelson (Wednesdays 12-4 pm), Pastor Jae (Thursdays 12-4 pm), or Pastor John (Fridays 12-4 pm), or email it to Pastor John (pastorjohn@peacetacoma.org). Questions? Ask Pastor John.

Faith Activity for Kids - Journey to the Cross

Children's ministry leaders have put together Lenten activity kits for children and families to use at home during Lent. The kit includes a Lent calendar with daily faith activity as well as some small craft activities connected to scripture. Please contact Brendan Nelson (brendan@peacetacoma.org) to pick up a kit or schedule a drop-off.

Intergenerational Foot-Washing

Pastor Jae is offering instructions for folks to share in a foot-washing experience with your household or those in your Covid quarantine circle to help us connect with the Maundy Thursday story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet and commanding them (us) to love one another.

Peace Community Center Highlight

People of Peace,

We are thrilled to share that Peace Community Center is celebrating its 20th Anniversary! With our annual Learners to Leaders event just around the corner, we are using this opportunity to celebrate our 20 years of service to Scholars in the Hilltop neighborhood.

During this event, we will reflect on our past 20 years of academic and enrichment opportunities, hear from some Hilltop Scholar alumni, and uplift the successes of current Hilltop Scholars. We will celebrate that together, we are *Growing Tomorrow's Leaders*.

Will you celebrate with us? Here are some ways to get involved with Peace Community Center's 20th Anniversary Learners to Leaders event:

Attend our livestream event on March 19, 2021 at 4:30pm on

YouTube live. You can register online at: <https://peacecommunitycenter.org/events/learners-to-leaders/>

Make a special 20th Anniversary gift to Peace Community Center by March 19th either online at <https://peacecommunitycenter.org/giving/> or by sending in a check to our shared office

Invite your friends and family to join you in attending the livestream and in making a impactful gift to our Center

Our goal is to raise \$100,000 by March 19th to continue providing meaningful opportunities for Hilltop Scholars to learn and grow. Together, we can empower future success for tomorrow's leaders.

Thank you for your incredible continued support of our Center and Scholars. We are so grateful to have your caring and generous congregation as partners in this work.

Gratefully,

Peace Community Center

Music Ministry - the Lenten Journey

Hello Peace Family,

Although the choir cannot come together during this time, we can choose during this season of Lent to cultivate a closer relationship with God. Songs tend to unify people and can heal, bring joy, touch the heart and bring tears. Let's be intentional about self reflecting, self correcting, and redirecting our hearts toward fasting, prayer and works of love. Choose at this time to become better not bitter so the songs we sing will be a light that dispels darkness.

Psalm 104:33: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live, I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.
Psalm 101:1: I will sing of lovingkindness and justice. To you, O Lord, I will sing praises

Blessings,

Twylla Moore, Music Director



Opportunities to Serve & Give

Community Resources Ministry Want to support the grab and go Community Meals Fridays from 5:30-6:30 pm? Provide and serve a meal for up to 60 people OR come at 5:20 pm to help prepare to-go boxes. 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 or to volunteer: contact Teri Jelinek (tjelinek50@gmail.com).

Want to Assist Sunday Mornings for Live-Stream Worship? We need readers, assisting ministers, song leaders, and tech helpers. Please contact Pastor John.

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.

Want to Give Offering to Peace Through Auto-Deduction? Contact Damishe in the office.

Thrivent Choice Dollars Are you a member of Thrivent Financial? Do you have Choice Dollars to direct to a charitable organization? Please consider directing your Choice Dollars to Peace Lutheran Church or Peace Community Center by logging into your account on the Thrivent website. Do it by March 31.

Our Lenten Offering Our offering this Lent is for Coffee Oasis in Tacoma, which provides a homeless shelter for youth. Help youth to find rest, safety, and hope for the future. Please give to "Peace Lutheran Church," earmarked "Lenten Offering."

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, 253-383-1317 ext. 104, jae@peacecommunitycenter.org

Music Director: Twylla Moore, twylla@peacetacoma.org

Nursery Attendant: Rebecca Valencia

Community Resources Coordinator: Teri Jelinek, tjelinek50@gmail.com

Office Coordinator: Damishe Greenwood-Walker, 253-383-1317 ext. 100, plcadm@peacetacoma.org

Finance Coordinator: Jenny Haferbecker, jenny@peacetacoma.org

Custodian: Ana Sanchez

OFFICE HOURS: Wednesdays 12-4 pm Brendan, Thursdays 12-4 pm Pastor Jae, Fridays 12-4 pm Pastor John

Check out Peace Lutheran Church on Social Media!

Check out the website: Peace Lutheran Church

Find us on Facebook:

[Peace Lutheran Tacoma](https://www.facebook.com/Peace Lutheran Tacoma)

[Peace Lutheran Church Youth Ministry](https://www.facebook.com/Peace Lutheran Church Youth Ministry)

Instagram: [@peacelutheranchurch](https://www.instagram.com/@peacelutheranchurch)

Check out our YouTube page: [Peace Videos](https://www.youtube.com/Peace Videos)

Reopening Team Update

Our Reopening Task Force meets regularly to discuss concerns, ideas, and barriers to resuming in-person worship at Peace. We understand the deep spiritual need for some in-person connection as well as the continued concern for personal and public health. Our current plan is this: When Pierce County reaches Phase 3, the task force will meet to prayerfully determine our reopening date for indoor in-person worship. We encourage all who are eligible and able to receive Covid-19 vaccinations.

Do You Need Help Checking Your Vaccine Eligibility or Setting Up an Appointment to Be Vaccinated?

Please contact Brendan Nelson (brendan@peacetacoma.org). If you would like in-person help from Brendan, please connect with him during his office hours at Peace Wednesdays from 12-4 pm.

Are You Willing to Help Others Get Vaccinated? If you have completed your course of vaccinations and would be available to help people get to appointments to get vaccinated, please contact Brendan.

Peace, health, and safety to you in Jesus' name,
Reopening Task Force: Joseph Anderson, Ben Flesher, Brendan Nelson, Pastor Jae, Pastor John, Carol Watson

Living Stones Prison Ministry



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. In pre-Covid times, worship was held weekly on Saturday evenings for persons choosing to worship with the men.

Because of being unable to gather in person we are unable to worship at the prison with the men. Our reentry ministry, Stepping Stones, is also on hold until we are able to meet in person. I encourage you to visit the Living Stones Prison Ministry website to learn of updates on things with the ministry as well as within the prison.

In God's love, *Teresa Jackson*, Living Stones Board Chair

Women's Ministry



In pre-Covid times, our Women's Bible Study was held the **second Thursday of each month at 10 am**. We study together the lesson in each month's **Gather** magazine. During the pandemic we have chosen not to meet. When we can safely meet in person our Bible Study will resume. For those who have subscriptions to **Gather** magazine I encourage you to read the great articles in the magazine and follow the study in the magazine.

In God's love, *Teresa Jackson*, Women's Ministry

From the Church Council

Do you feel as though you have been wandering and living in the 'Zoom' wilderness, wearing masks and social distancing? I deeply miss the in-person gatherings and will certainly rejoice when we can resume them. In the meantime, we wander this wilderness, but not without hope or direction. We have many reasons to be grateful. God sent his prophets long ago to the people of Israel, not to foretell the future, but to remind them who God was and is and that he went with them. His steadfastness and faithfulness continues to go with us in our wilderness journey as well.

We have had to figure out new ways to carry out God's call to Peace Lutheran Church and how we can and must work to carry out his ministry that still needs to happen. We have been pushed out of our comfort zones into the zone of change and growth. I believe that is a good thing! God has gifted us and provides what we need.

The Church Council continues to attend to how that can happen. Work continues in the Future Directions Committee as we look at where we are and where and how God is leading us through and past this pandemic into the future. The Re-opening Task force is preparing for the time when we can once again gather in-person safely and responsibly. Worship and education opportunities have evolved and still happen. We continue to reach out and encourage one another and our community. Affordable housing initiatives continue. Community meals are still provided. Ministry just looks different right now. In fact, I expect that even once we can return to more normal practice, much of what and how we go forward will include some of the ways we have adapted to new ways of ministry this past year.

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

I am grateful – grateful to God and to the MANY who serve in so many ways at Peace. "Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good!" Give thanks for his unconditional and constant 'loyal love'.

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**
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**.