

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

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THE CALL TO PEACE

Volume 19 ▪ Issue 2 ▪ Summer 2023

Summer Outdoor Worship, BBQ, Outdoor Games!

Outside on the corner lot (21st and S. Ainsworth). One Sunday this summer:

August 6 at 11 am with Cookout and Games following

(no 8:30 am worship on this Sunday)

Bring a chair (or use one provided). Give thanks to God! We will also live stream this service.



Compassion Camp Summer Bible Adventure!

(also known as Vacation Bible School)

3 days! Tuesday-Thursday, August 8-10, 5:30-8 pm

Children & families, share a meal, do activities, have fun, and learn how God calls us to show compassion to yourself, others, & the world. **Free!** Registration starts mid-summer.



Peace at the Park

Wednesday July 12 and Wednesday August 16, 5:30-7:30 pm

Wright Park, 501 S I St, Tacoma

Everyone is invited to gather at Wright Park with Peace friends, neighbors, and the community. Bring your own picnic food items and your own utensils. Kids, enjoy the spray park and playground. If you want, bring outdoor play items (balls, games, etc.) to share.

Peace Lutheran Church Worship

We worship Sundays at 8:30 & 11 am. Masks are welcome and encouraged but not required. We require masks the first Sunday of each month for 8:30 am worship so those who need to take additional precautions can participate. If you are experiencing symptoms of illness, please stay home and worship online. Join live stream Sunday worship at 11 am on the church Facebook page (worship video also available later on the YouTube channel).



Peace Lutheran
Church



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.

Interested in Learning More about Faith in God and Service through Peace Lutheran Church? Want to Become a Member of Peace? Join a **Saturday class on June 3 from 10 am – 3 pm** called “Foundations of Faith and Peace” exploring marks of being a follower of Jesus and what it means to serve him in and through Peace Lutheran Church and Community Center. Lunch provided. Interested? Talk to Pastor John. New members will be received in worship on Sunday, June 25.

Youth Dinner: Youth from Peace are invited to a Youth Dinner at the Cox home on **Sunday June 4, 6:30-8:30 pm**. Contact Jayna Detweiler for more info.

Peace High Tea Party: On **Saturday June 10 from 11-1 pm** you're invited to the first-ever high tea party at Peace! It's a fundraiser for the Peace women's retreat this fall. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for children. Sponsored by the Women of Peace. Contact Charissa Carroll for tickets & info 253-267-9510.

Jimothy Rogers Piano Concert: Former Peace Music Direction Jimothy Rogers will perform a piano concert in the sanctuary at Peace Lutheran Church on **Wednesday June 21 at 7 pm**. Come and be blessed by beautiful piano music! No cost to attend. A free-will offering will be received.

Pastor's Reflection

People of Peace,

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.” - Ephesians 2:13-14

This is the same scripture passage I used in my Pastor's Reflection for the 2022 summer newsletter. We need to hear this message over and over. Jesus is our peace. He breaks down the walls that divide us. He is our bridge to God and to one another. And racism is a huge dividing wall. As followers of Jesus, we're called to join Jesus in breaking down that dividing wall, building bridges, helping bring about peace. We say it like this in our Foundational Commitment to Anti-racism: “This church names racism (individual and systemic) as sin. We affirm that the diversity of cultures is a God-given gift, and we seek to extend God's love to all our neighbors. We believe Jesus calls us to understand, address, and dismantle racism in individuals, communities, systems, and structures, joining God in bringing about justice for the oppressed and transformation of all society.”

Our Future Directions at Peace help us live into this commitment, and we're on the journey. This year two ongoing anti-racist efforts have involved people of Peace church, both called “Confronting Racism”—a Zoom series on racial justice organized by the ecumenical Conversations Around Race of which Peace is a long-time partner, and a monthly gathering of representatives of several congregations in our Lutheran synod for conversation around the book, *How to Fight Racism* by Jemar Tisby, in the direction of actions for racial justice.

In the Conversations Around Race justice series from February through May, we listened to stories of historic injustice (Native American genocide/colonialism, the WW2 Japanese American internment, and Tacoma's own story of institutional racism), and then heard stories of how local Tacoma congregations (Peace and New Salem Baptist) are confronting racism in their congregations and communities.

In the synod journey confronting racism, our Peace team met monthly on our own to examine characteristics of white supremacy culture and antidotes, develop a list of areas of exploration critical to Peace's future in anti-racism, and do initial planning toward an anti-racism resource center for Peace (both a physical on-site library and an online resource list). We are gathering a team to work on the resource center.

At the same time, the Future Directions Action Plan Team at Peace has created an action plan to help us organize ourselves to move forward effectively as we live into our Future Directions we've discerned from God. We are now taking steps to pull together two committees to steer our work, an Anti-Racism Work Group and a Ministry of Place/Activation Work Group. The process is slow but deliberate, and we are making progress on our journey. More information to come soon.

Let me conclude by sharing the prayer we put together as a Confronting Racism synod team, led by Rev. Lynn Longfield: We pray...
+ That we will become heart listeners.
+ That we will recognize the knots of racism are beginning to untangle, creating a hunger that desires to be satisfied.
+ That joy will become more and more a part of our efforts together and that that joy become contagious.
+ That persistence, perseverance, and awareness of what could be helpful for the whole congregation will continue and grow in strength.
+ That our gratitude for each other will continue and that we look beyond our particular moment into the future God would have for each of us and for Peace as a whole. Amen!



Pastor John

Peace Summer Calendar

June

June 3rd (Saturday)	10–3 pm Foundations of Faith & Peace New Member class
June 4th (Sunday)	Blessing of Peace Graduates
June 10th (Saturday)	11-1 pm Peace High Tea Party
June 11th (Sunday)	End of School Year Blessing, Programmatic Year Leader & Helper Thank You
June 18th (Sunday)	9:45 am Father's Day Breakfast
June 21st (Wednesday)	7 pm Jimothy Rogers piano concert at Peace
June 25th (Sunday)	New Member Welcome

July

July 9th-14th	Youth Servant Learning Mission Experience through Mending Wings, Yakama Nation
July 12 (Wednesday)	5:30-7:30 pm Peace at the Park (Wright Park)

August

August 6th (Sunday)	11 am Outdoor Worship at Peace followed by Cookout & Outdoor Games
August 8-10th (Tuesday-Thursday)	5:30-8 pm Summer Bible Adventure for Children
August 16 (Wednesday)	5:30-7:30 pm Peace at the Park (Wright Park)

September

September 17th (Sunday)	Rally Sunday (Sunday School starts again)
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Opportunities to Grow in Faith

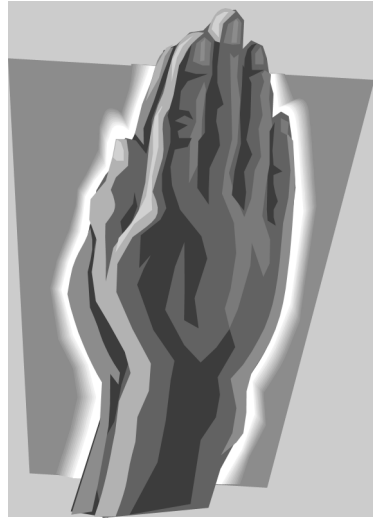
Faith Opportunities Sundays 9:45-10:45 am (in person)
+ 3 year-olds to 4th grade Godly Play children's Bible story time (basement classroom)
+ 4th-6th grader Explorers (multipurpose room classroom)
+ Adult & Youth class (multipurpose room):
June 4 & 11: Rev. Jen Rude, Peace member and PLU University Pastor, will lead on “unsettling the Word.” Is it possible to reclaim the Bible from dominant perspectives that oppress certain groups, hear the good news in a new way from those whose experiences have been ignored or silenced, and move toward shared liberation? Together we will explore what it means to decolonize scripture, listen to various perspectives engaging biblical texts, and unsettle ourselves and our assumptions in order to imagine God's Word in liberatory ways.
June 18: No class—enjoy Father's Day breakfast
June 25: Future Directions Action Plan update, led by Brendan Nelson and Pastor John

Community Bible Study Pastor John leads 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”? Pick one up from the table outside the sanctuary, or contact Damishe in the office.

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
- Charissa Carroll and Emillie Binja, ordained recently into rostered ministry in the ELCA
- Confirmands: Lucy Asadi-McGlaughlin, Nora Hanawalt, Alexandria Sanchez, and Ebonie Snead
- Peace Lutheran Church with the completion of the DADU 2-bedroom home (our 4th housing unit)
- The Peace community as we reach out in love to Hilltop families this summer

Those who are hurting...

- All who continue to be affected 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 Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria, Sudan, Iraq, the Holy Land, and Central African Republic

Our work...

- Our church as we live into our Future Directions, grounded in a commitment to anti-racism
- 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, Seigny 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.

Women@Peace



Women@Peace is not a new concept. Women have been meeting for years studying the Bible study with Carol Plaehn, and then most recently Teresa Jackson, once a month. There have also been synod gatherings of women. Now Women@Peace are gathering in a new way. We met once in October and then began monthly breakfast gatherings in February. It is always fun to introduce ourselves, meet new faces, and learn about something new. We are all learners and are invited to grow together as we continue to meet.

Our May breakfast gathering is the last for the school year. We are cancelling the monthly breakfast for June. However, there will be a lovely High Tea on June 10 at 11 am and all are invited! The proceeds will go to funding the Women's Retreat this October. We will have some informal gatherings this summer, so listen and watch for those!

To me, the breakfast gatherings serve as a time to meet friends face to face, over a meal. I've had so many significant conversations, have been touched by the vulnerability I see, and have felt in so many ways that we are all walking the journey together. We are of different ages, experiences and seasons of life, and we are walking the journey together with God. All of this is a confirmation that we need each other and bless each other as a church body. I am grateful for those I have interacted with at these gatherings. I am truly blessed by everyone's presence.

Blessings to you all,

Leigh Wong, Women@Peace Leader, along with Charissa Carroll and Sarah Butler Wills



Community Resources Meals Ministry



The Community Resource Ministry is now more than four years old and for more than three years we have been providing meals to go. We are back to dining in and so excited to share meals in person. Charissa Carroll, our Resource Navigator, with the help of Thrivent, has been able to provide additional bags of food items for those who come.

We are grateful for all of volunteers to take the time to prepare and help serve the meals. We are looking forward to growing the meals ministry. If you are interested in supporting the ministry by

volunteering, please contact Damishe Greenwood-Walker at (253) 383-1317 or email plcadmin@peacetacoma.org or Brendan Nelson, Director of Community Engagement and Outreach at brendan@peacetacoma.org. If you are in need of assistance with resources, please email Charissa Carroll at charissa@peacetacoma.org.

Thank you for your prayers and generosity.

Community Resources Meals Team

Music Ministry



Greetings Peace Family,
Summer is around the corner and school will be out soon. Family vacations will begin and the weather is beginning to shift. The Music Department is shifting and is looking for volunteers to participate in Sunday service. Your commitment can be tailored to fit your schedule monthly, quarterly, on holidays, or even once a year. Since there are two services, you can choose which one you want to share your gifts and talent.

We are looking for song leaders, soloists, instrumentalists, praise dancers, drummers, guitarists, ukulele players, keyboardists, drama participants, etc. Some of the folks influencing the shift are Craig Cogger when he graced us with his musical talent on the accordion in 2022 for the Christmas Eve program and 2023 on Easter Sunday. Rick Trombley graced us with scripture in song for the same events. Also, this year Irene Manley is playing the organ and shared a Hula praise dance.

In addition, the Gospel Choir is back! We rehearse and sing once a month during the summer:

- June: Rehearse Thursday June 15, Sing Sunday June 18 at 11 am**
- July: Rehearse Thursday July 27, Sing Sunday July 30 at 11 am**
- Aug: Rehearse Thursday Aug. 24, Sing Sunday Aug. 27 at 11 am**

This is an exciting year with activities returning including the Worship Committee meeting at Peace on May 31st at 7:30 pm. I have a place reserved for YOU so contact me Twylla Moore twylla@peacetacoma.org.

Twylla Moore, Music Director



Opportunities to Serve

Regular Offering to Peace: Thank you for your generous and ongoing giving of financial support to Peace Lutheran Church! Please share your offering in person Sundays at the Welcome Table or send offering by mail or electronic means or donate on the church website. If you would like to set up regular online giving, contact the church office (253-383-1317).

- Helpers Needed:**
- + Interested in serving in Children’s or Youth Ministry at Peace? Please contact Jayna Detweiler (503-984-0890, jayna@peacetacoma.org).
 - + Interested in assisting in Sunday worship as an assisting minister, usher, reader, greeter, or audio-visual assistant? Training will be provided. Contact Pastor John.
 - + Able to help when Peace hosts receptions, especially after memorial services? We also need a coordinator. Contact Pastor John.
 - + Feel called to serve by preparing the Communion elements and helping to decorate the sanctuary for worship? Contact Jeanie Correa (253-278-3390).

Community Meals: Community Meals are in person every Friday 5:30-6:30 pm. We also share information about community resources and services. Want to help? Contact Damishe in the church office.

Youth Mission Trip Support: Want to support the 10 Peace youth participating in this summer’s servant learning mission experience with Mending Wings and the Yakama Nation? Please give to Peace Lutheran Church, marked “Youth Mission Trip.”

Peace Community Center

Dear Peace Lutheran Church,

I am excited to provide you with an update on our current PCC fundraising campaign, “Electrify Your Impact,” and share some exciting news about the expansion of our programs at Peace Community Center. Thanks to your unwavering support and the amazing kitchen facilities you share with us, we have made significant strides in serving our community and empowering young minds.

Recognizing the growing need for nourishment among our Scholars, we have implemented a meals initiative, ensuring that each student receives a nutritious meal during their time in after school program. When students’ hungry tummies are filled with energizing food, they can focus better on their studies and enrichment activities.



Our new Food Services Coordinator, Tanya, has prepared and distributed an astounding 2,200 meals to our students from February to April alone. Scholars look forward to the arrival of the meals each day and enjoy connecting with each other in conversation as they eat their food.

The impact of providing meals extends beyond just the yummy food. It creates a nurturing environment that fosters holistic growth and development for our Scholars. Proper nutrition plays a vital role in a child's cognitive function, academic performance, and overall well-being. By addressing this fundamental need, we are empowering our students to thrive academically and personally.

However, none of this would be possible without the ongoing support of our Peace Lutheran Church family. We appreciate every one of your donations, in-kind gifts, and volunteer hours. As we move towards the summer, any donation you would like to make to our "Electrify Your Impact" fundraising campaign will be instrumental in allowing us to expand our programs and sustain our services throughout the summer and beyond. The generosity of PLC and our partners in the community is the driving force behind our ability to make a lasting difference in the lives of these young people and their families.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me at keithc@peacecommunitycenter.org. I have enjoyed meeting many of you at various events, and I look forward (along with the rest of the team) of continuing to get to know you better in the coming months. We are so grateful to share this space and vision with you and are thankful for your continued partnership! Have a blessed summer!

Keith Cantrell, Peace Community Center



Inreach Ministry

Beloved,

God has drawn us together to connect us with Jesus, and through him to one another. We have been gifted with each other and for one another. Take a look at the opportunities to serve in the activities at Peace that have opened up as we see each other more often face to face. Working side by side often occasions the conversations that serve to draw us closer together. As we journey together the Holy Spirit is able to speak through us words that heal, words that transform, words that free us to grow in love. Peace to you. Peace through you.

Rick Trombley, Inreach



Mother’s Day Breakfast

What's Been Happening at Peace Lutheran Church?



Lent Prayer Walk in the Hilltop



Easter Cross



Easter Eggstravaganza!



Youth serving on the Feet to Faith retreat



Charissa Carroll ordination service

Who's Who on the Peace Lutheran Church Staff

Pastor: John Stroeh, 253-383-1317 ext 101, pastorjohn@peacetacoma.org
Director of Community Engagement and Outreach: Brendan Nelson, 253-383-1317 ext 102, brendan@peacetacoma.org
Children's, Youth & Intergenerational Coordinator: Jayna Detweiler, 253-383-1317 ext 100, (leave a message), jayna@peacetacoma.org
Music Director: Twylla Moore, twylla@peacetacoma.org
Resource Navigator: Charissa Carroll, ext 100, (leave a message), charissa@peacetacoma.org
Nursery Attendant: Rebecca Valencia, rebecca@peacetacoma.org
Office Manager & Community Meals Contact Person: Damishe Greenwood-Walker, 253-383-1317 ext 100, plcadmin@peacetacoma.org
Finance Coordinator: Jenny Haferbecker, jenny@peacetacoma.org

Children and Youth Ministry Update

Dear Peace Families,

There is so much joy as we've been enjoying the warmer weather here in Tacoma! It has made me excited and looking forward to all that we have going on for children and youth this summer.

Pastor John and I will be getting ready to start the summer with our Youth trip to Yakama Reservation with our youth, and we could not be doing it without the support of those who contributed. The youth are so thankful to the Flishers for putting on an amazing Easter breakfast to support the fundraiser for the trip. Pray for it to be a great week of growth for all of us going and look forward to hearing stories from us all when we return. We will be continuing to serve in our neighborhood as opportunities present themselves like with community meals, the garden, and supporting our neighbors. The youth will continue to have monthly Sunday night dinners and more as we enjoy summertime.



Children's Ministry has been working to incorporate more music as you've seen the children sing in worship a few times now. I would love to have help from anyone musically inclined as the kids do like the opportunity and could use support to have more confidence! I am working on bring Camp Compassion back for another round this summer August 8-10th in the evenings. I am looking for volunteers to provide dinner, help with skits, or help lead small groups. Please reach out to me if you'd like to be a part of the magic this summer. Children's Ministry continues to grow and what a blessing it is to spend time with each and every one of these kids! Peace and Joy,

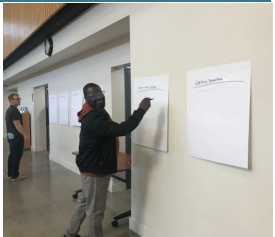
Jayna Detweiler, Children's, Youth & Intergenerational Coordinator

Stewardship

Hello to all of our Peace family faithful stewards.

I know there are many of us looking forward to summer opportunities at this time... opportunities for travel and for exploration, maybe for visits with far away friends and family or perhaps just some relaxation. All these experiences afford us the opportunity to use those gifts we steward that follow us wherever we go. Some of us carry the gift of encouragement, some the gift of hospitality, some the gift of listening and understanding, some the gift of grace and courage under fire and the ravages of difficult circumstances-and so many more.

Of course, we can always be open to receiving these often unexpected gifts from others. This is the beauty of stewardship in action-a circle of acceptance and support. It can be a difficult task to find ways to support stewardship in the Peace family. We are blessed to have so many family members willing to freely share their abundance of talents and gifts. The photo is from last Sunday-just one example of people stepping forward to encourage and to share. A big thanks to everyone!



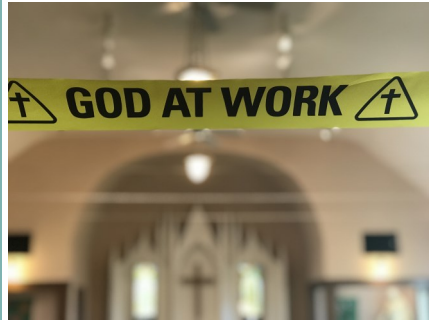
Have a Blessed Summer!

Melody Duke, Stewardship Chair

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.

Community Engagement and Outreach

Peace Family,



There is so much to thank God for as we enter into summer and I'm so grateful to be on this journey with you all. We have come this far by faith and will continue to lean towards God for guidance as we move forward with our future directions work.



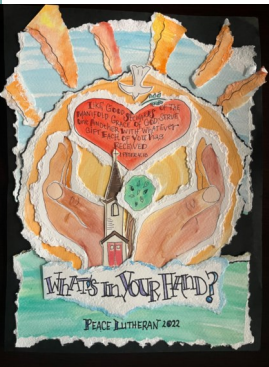
In the recent months we have completed our DADU and now officially have a family in the home. It was a very long and tedious process but we made it through and have been able to provide housing for a single father of two young boys. I have learned a lot throughout this process and truly thank our staff, housing team, and the many folks that contributed their time and talents. We were blessed to complete the Enterprise cohort after a 6 month journey. Our team learned so much and have been eager to put a few things in motion. Since completing the cohort we have developed what is being called the housing vision team, we will focus on big picture planning for the ministry and how God is calling us to move forward.

I'm also very excited to share that we will be receiving additional funding from the ELCA to support staff capacity and community engagement. This is a huge step for us to be able to expand ministry opportunities. I hope you all know and feel my deep gratitude for the countless ways you show up for Peace. Our church and community are much better and stronger because we remain united, steadfast and committed to God's call.

In service,
Brendan Nelson,
Director of Community Engagement and Outreach



Sunday Faith Education Hour



This year we've dived into the theme "What's In Your Hand?" as a form of stewardship. We've heard from many community members on how they've been faithful to the unique gifts and circumstances God has given them, and we have been challenged to think of ways we can use what we've been given to bless our community.

We are working towards a goal of compiling a directory of gifts that we can make available to the Peace community. Throughout the year we were also blessed by Lynn Longfield's 5 week series inviting Lenten reflection through the lens of African American spirituals; by hearing from our youth in dialogue with adults; by Malcolm

Carroll leading us to connect the Psalms to our current circumstances; and many other voices that contribute to the diverse community that is Peace.

Thanks,
Michaela Cox, Education Chair

From the Church Council

To the Peace Family,

It is such a blessing to see the church active and moving. There are so many ways to become involved. There is something for everyone. As we move forward, living into the Future Directions, there is a place for everyone. I am excited to see the church grow and develop in new directions. With the help of Bill Hanawalt, we have an action plan and new groups forming to develop a framework for this work.

We have some groups in the church that could use your help. The newsletter is full of ways to serve. How is God calling you? The church council continues to work on our church business. We have a motivated group that works well together. It is a joy to learn and share. Congratulations to all of the graduates as you move into the future. Our prayers for continued success go with you.



Our Director of Community Engagement and Outreach, Brendan Nelson, is eligible for a three-month sabbatical, and the Church Council is excited that he will take one July 1 - September 30 this year. We pray that he have a restful and renewing time away and return to Peace energized to serve into the future!

In closing, Romans 15:5 - May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had. Have a great summer!

Blessings,

Pam Asadi, 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**.

Foundational Commitment to Anti-racism

As followers of Jesus, we believe that God created all people in God's image (Genesis 1:27), Jesus breaks down all dividing walls (Ephesians 2:14), and the Holy Spirit connects and unites all people. The whole church looks forward to God's future when people will be gathered from all cultures and peoples in the reign of God (Revelation 7). This church names racism (individual and systemic) as sin. We affirm that the diversity of cultures is a God-given gift, and we seek to extend God's love to all our neighbors. We believe Jesus calls us to understand, address, and dismantle racism in individuals, communities, systems, and structures, joining God in bringing about justice for the oppressed and transformation of all society (Luke 4).