

partners

Peace Lutheran Church

Fall, 2025



Growing a community that nurtures a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.



Gathering Sunday September 7

Worship - 9:30am

Installation of the
Transition Team

Extended Fellowship Time

Day of Fun for all! Bouncy
House, Popcorn, Snow Cones!

In This Issue

3

A Message from
Pastor Jeff Engholm

4-5

Fall Worship Schedule

6

Sunday Adult Education Topics

7

Group News

8-10

Children & Youth Ministry News

11

Peace Photo Diary

12-13

Service & Mission News

14-15

Transition Team Updates

16-17

Fall Fellowship Opportunities

18

Church Council News

19

Devotion

October Fall Festival

Sunday, October 26, 10:30am

Save the date for a congregational, all
ages celebration of all things fall!

Fall Treats, Crafts, Activities, and More!



Happy New Year!

Happy New Year! Yes, that's exactly the greeting I want to use for this issue of *Partners*, because that's exactly what is happening around here. Even though the calendar shows September 1 and not January 1, it is indeed a new year because so much of our church programming begins in the fall and wraps up in the spring. Of course, you knew that already, so I suppose there's actually nothing "new" about this being a "new year." You're used to it happening every year in the fall when so many events and activities get a fresh start.

On the other hand, I've only been on the ground here for a few weeks, so this will be the first time I get to experience all the new things that will be starting (and restarting) in September. I'm excited to hear the choir rehearsing and sharing their music at worship. I'm looking forward to meeting Sunday School students and leaders as they begin learning Old Testament stories about

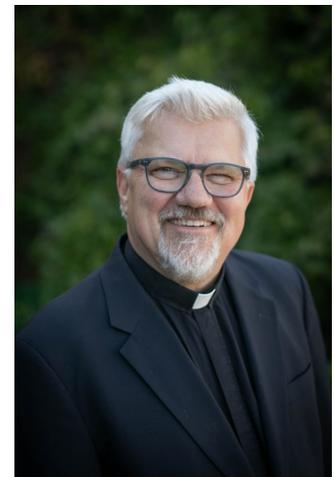
Abraham, Noah, and Jeremiah, and New Testament stories about Peter, Paul, and of course, Jesus. And I can't wait to get to know the confirmation kids as we dig deeper into those same stories at our Wednesday night gatherings and other special events.

In addition to all of these familiar things that will soon be restarting, I'm also looking forward to the start of something that truly IS new for all of us at Peace – our upcoming conversations on TRANSITION. It was just one year ago that this congregation was led by two full-time pastors, and now both pastors have moved on to new ventures over the course of the past year, one to a new congregation and one to new opportunities. Thankfully, the work of the church does not depend upon the work of pastors, but upon the work of the Spirit through every member of the congregation. I'm excited to see how God will

be at work in the coming year through ALL the leaders of this church – council members, worship leaders, committees, teachers, teams, and staff.

And YOU! I'm so grateful to be serving alongside each and every one of you as we explore what God is up to at Peace Lutheran Church. May God bless our time together in order to shine the light of Christ for all!

—Pastor Jeff Engholm



Seasonal Worship Guide

September

| 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Gathering Sunday, Time after Pentecost, 9:30am | Time after Pentecost, 9:30am | Time after Pentecost, 9:30am | Time after Pentecost, 9:30am |
| Holy Communion, Transition Team Installed, Time, Talent and Interest Forms | Holy Communion; Blessing of Sunday School Students & Teachers; Bibles for Preschoolers & Toddlers, New Members Recognized | Holy Communion, Peace Choir | Holy Communion, Peace Choir, Sunday School Singers |
| Gathering Sunday, Fellowship Time - Day of Fun for all! | Adult Education, Sunday School First Day of Classroom Lessons | Extended Adult Fellowship Time, Sunday School | Adult Education, Sunday School |

October

| 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Time after Pentecost, 9:30am | Time after Pentecost, 9:30am | Time after Pentecost, 9:30am | Reformation Sunday, 9:30am |
| Holy Communion, Peace Choir | Holy Communion, Peace Choir | Holy Communion, Peace Choir | Holy Communion, Peace Choir |
| Personal Care Kit Packing (Adults), Sunday School | Adult Education, Sunday School | All Saints Name Book Available, Extended Adult Fellowship Time, Sunday School | All Saints Name Book Available, Congregational Fall Festival for all |

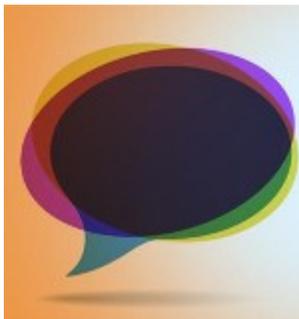
November

| 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| All Saints Sunday, 9:30am | Time after Pentecost, 9:30am | Time after Pentecost, 9:30am | Christ the King, 9:30am | First Sunday in Advent, 9:30am |
| Holy Communion; Peace Choir | Holy Communion, Peace Choir | Holy Communion, Sunday School Singers, Peace Choir | Holy Communion, Peace Choir | Holy Communion, Peace Choir |
| Adult Education, Sunday School | Harvest Pack; Sunday School | Adult Education, Sunday School | Pie Fest with Fellowship Time, Sunday School | Extended Adult Fellowship Time |

Sunday Adult Education

Sunday, September 7

On this Gathering Sunday, enjoy time in extended fellowship! Come meet Pastor Engholm if you haven't yet and catch up with your Peace friends. Kids, Sunday School will kickoff with a Day of Fun! We'll head outside to bounce and jump around in a bouncy house and enjoy treats!



so please bring your thoughts and questions!

Sunday, September 21

Join us for a time of extended fellowship!

Sunday, September 28 **“Transition Work”**

Join Pastor Jeff Engholm and the Transition Team to hear more about the transition process and how you can be involved.

Sunday, October 5

LWR Personal Care Kit Packing

It's a morning of Service! Adults, join in on packing 100 Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief.

Sunday, October 12

Topic and speaker to be announced.

Sunday, October 19

Join us for a time of extended fellowship!

Sunday, October 26

Today we'll have a congregational fall festival! We'll enjoy fall treats and have

fall activities and crafts for all ages!

Sunday, November 2

Topic and speaker to be announced.

Sunday, November 9 **Harvest Pack**

No Adult Education. It's the annual Harvest Pack in the Parish Hall. Join in as we aim to pack 15,000 servings of oatmeal!

Sunday, November 16

Topic and speaker to be announced.

Sunday, November 23 **Pie Fest**

Join us for a slice or two of pie and extended fellowship time!

Sunday, November 30

Join us for a time of extended fellowship!

Sunday Adult Education is subject to change.

Sunday, September 14

“Translating the Bible: Challenges and Opportunities”



Why are there so many Bible translations? What special challenges does the Bible present

for translators? What wisdom can we glean from Martin Luther and the Bible translation efforts of the reformers? Kristofer Dale Phan Coffman, Assistant Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary, will dig into these topics and more. This presentation will be conversational and interactive,

Morning Bible Study

Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30am

Martin Luther taught the doctrine of "Sola scriptura," the Protestant Reformation principle that the Bible is the sole authority for



Christian faith and practice. Luther advocated all believers should read the scriptures for themselves, individually and in community to increase understanding.

At Peace Lutheran Church, Wednesday morning Bible study is a small group ministry that has been meeting at least 25 years. We have delved into every book in the New Testament...multiple times (and quite a bit of the Old Testament from time to time as well.)

At over 1,000 meetings, I would hope you don't assume we

must be slow learners!

Participants find continuing value and new insights – and group study certainly facilitates that.

The chosen Bible readings for the day are certainly there for all, but sometimes it seems like certain ones are mysteriously provided just as you need them. It's what Lutherans mean when we say "Living Word." That is, scripture can sometimes speak to us individually as we need it.

On Wednesday mornings at 7:30am, we meet for an hour in the front meeting room with typically six to ten in attendance. There is no particular order to the books we tackle; whenever we finish

one book, the group chooses the next. We are, by design, a leaderless group navigating together by sharing our own insights (or opinions), posing our questions, or even confessing our confusion in a roundtable discussion of what we are reading. Some bring "study Bibles" with helpful footnotes and there are no expectations for your level of knowledge or amount of participation.

All are welcome to drop in as often or as infrequently as you are inclined. As non-expert seekers, we would expect your presence could enhance our experience just as much as we'd hope the group could enhance yours.

Come join us! Piping hot coffee will be waiting for you!

—Marc Hanson

Music

Peace Choir rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 3, 7:00-8:30pm in the sanctuary. Regular, weekly rehearsals will continue on Wednesdays at 7:00pm. The choir will participate in worship beginning mid-September and each Sunday thereafter.

An open invitation to interested newcomers is extended to attend any and all rehearsals! No auditions required. Questions can be addressed to Bruce Hudson at music@peacebloomington.org.

—Bruce Hudson

Summer Camps Were a Blast!

It was a great summer for Peace students! Together we enjoyed Vacation Bible School and Camp Wapogasset's Youth and Seeds Camps.

The VBS theme was **"Truth North."** Kids learned to "Trust Jesus in a Wild World" through amazing Bible stories, science experiments, Scripture study, service projects, fun games and great music and songs.

This year's service project was Birthday Bags for VEAP. Kids decorated grocery bags then packed them with birthday items. 82 bags were packed!

All in all, 18 youth and 11 volunteers from Peace, joined with CCLC youth and volunteers

for an amazing week. Our thanks to all the kids, parents, volunteers; and to CCLC for helping to make this week happen!

Camp Wapogasset's theme was **"Breathe in Peace."** Every morning youth camp started with "First Word," hearing the Word of God first thing in the morning. Daily activities included numerous games—Conquer The Castle, Game-a-palooza, Wapo Quaffle, nine square—and other activities such as swimming, arts, bonfires, visiting the canteen to name a few.

This year youth campers went on a "Christ Hike", a visual

representation of moments from the Bible as they walked through camp watching and listening to different stories acted out by their counselors.

Camp Wapo's Seeds weekend used the same theme and offered activities including daily worship, Bible study, games, swimming, arts, singing, and bonfires.

Whether a week or a weekend, it was a great time for all the Peace youth who attended: Ellie Anderson, Myla Macejkovic, Elsie Macejkovic, Ayla Rogers, Anja Rogers, Grace Stender, Addison Tschida, and Wyatt Tschida.

—*Daina Sivanich*



Sunday School News

This year we begin on **Sunday, September 7th** with a **DAY OF FUN!** A bounce house, popcorn, snow cones and more—join us for this fun gathering activity after church at 10:30am. Young, old and in-between are invited to join the fun.

On **Sunday, September 14** during worship we will install our Sunday School teachers and helpers, recognize our toddlers and 3rd graders with new Bibles and bless all our learners as our classes begin. Join with us in celebrating this new beginning.

I am excited that our children's classes are evolving this year. Peace will have three

classrooms of children:

- First grade and younger
- Second through fourth grade
- And a self-contained fifth grade.

The youngest group will be following our traditional Spark curriculum that is fun for young learners – story telling, art and games.

The middle group will follow the same Spark lessons each week with additional resources appropriate to their age.

The most exciting is the addition of a new resource for the 5th grade. They will be using the CONNECT curriculum to

prepare them for confirmation. It is designed to engage older kids in their faith journeys.

Be sure to register your children (ages 3 through 5th Grade) for Sunday School so that they don't miss out on any of the Sunday fun and learning!

—*Marcia Craig, Sunday School Programming Coordinator*



Sunday School and Confirmation Youth Activity Registration

Registration for Sunday School and Confirmation for the 2025-2026 school year is open!

Registration is required for participation, and the online registration link can be found in the in Friday e-note or on Peace's website. To help us plan for the coming year, please sign up as soon as possible. Thank you!

Sunday School Teaching Assistants

It's not too late to sign up to help! We are seeking adults and students 6th grade and up to help our students grow in their faith through our Sunday School program!

We are asking teachers to teach at least two Sundays per month. There will be at least two

adult leaders assigned to each room plus 1-2 assistants to provide greater flexibility and support. Have a busy schedule? We also need substitutes to serve as needed, when it works for you. And youth, we need your help in the classrooms too!

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Marcia Craig.

Confirmation Update

Every year our confirmation program consists of weekly classes on Wednesdays, regular worship on Sundays, service projects, and fellowship activities throughout the year. Specific dates regarding all these activities will be shared soon with the confirmation students and their families, but in the meantime I would like to put out a request for assistance to the whole congregation.

Weekly Guides

Each Wednesday night we will

gather from 6:30-7:30pm for a large group session which I will teach, followed by a small group discussion that will be led by adult members of the congregation. Would you please consider being one of these Small Group Guides? Please let me know!

Mentors

Several times throughout the year we will arrange one-to-one conversations between a confirmation student and an adult member of the

congregation. Would you please consider being a mentor for one of our confirmation students? Please let me know!

Thanks to all for your prayers, participation, and support as we work together to help these young people grow deeper in the faith!

—Pastor Jeff Engholm

Nursery News

The nursery will be staffed on Sundays 9:30-10:40am during worship September through May. Sophia Oman is returning this year as our caregiver along with Addison Tschida as her substitute. The nursery room is located in the lower level – please check out our toys and supplies with your children!

Feel free to go downstairs with your child any

time during worship. The service is broadcast in the nursery. You may drop off your child anytime—whether before or during worship. Pagers are available.

If you have young children, we hope this will make Sunday morning easier and more accessible for you.

—Lori Thomson

Whatever Happened to the Thursday CYF Blast?

We know that families are busy so we streamlined your inbox by combining the Thursday CYF Blast and the Friday e-Note. This eliminates “one more email” and allows the entire congregation to be informed about children’s programming and news.

Families, scroll down through the e-Note to see the Sunday School lesson, when the Sunday School Singers will be singing in worship, Confirmation news, and any other related news and activities!

—Daina Sivanich

Peace Photo Diary



Women's Ensemble practicing before worship on Sunday, August 24, 2025. (Along with David Henderson!)



Your 2025-2026 Sunday School Teachers:
Back Row L to R: Cecelia Byers, Tricia Davis, Michelle Stockinger, Robin Kennedy, Marcia Craig, Katie Loeffler
Front Row L to R: Emery Byers, Jeremy Macejkovic, Ayla Rogers, Erin Henderson, Mary Kautto

Pastor Jeff Visits VEAP and Loaves & Fishes



Pastor Jeff with Becky Patton and Barb R. of VEAP



The VEAP grocery area



The August Loaves & Fishes Serving Team:
L to R: Dawn Alger, Mark Reichel, Judy Williamson, Sue and Steve Larson



Service & Mission

Spotlight On....The Stocking Project

In this regular feature, we highlight an organization that Peace supports with your benevolence dollars through the Service & Mission Committee. This fall we focus on The Stocking Project.

A Bit of Background

The Stocking Project started in 2008 by a friend of Peace member, Kim Barnett, with the first delivery of 41 Christmas stockings to women in the Tubman Family Alliance Women's Shelter. She was aware that there are many resources available for children at the holidays, but not for the moms spending the holidays in domestic abuse shelters. As her awareness of the number of local shelters in the Twin Cities grew, she enlisted two other friends plus Kim to join her in expanding the scope of the project, and, together, they ran it for many years.

As word spread and donations increased, additional shelters were added to the delivery schedule and "Stockings for Mom" became "The Stocking Project" to include women who weren't necessarily moms. The individual Christmas stockings were replaced by gift bags, and

donations began to be curated to meet specific needs, as well as provide fun and treats to these women wanting change in their lives.

Approximately 10 years ago the other group participants decided they wanted to retire from the project, but Kim wasn't ready to let it go. She enlisted the financial aid of Peace's Service & Mission Committee and the Peace Women's Faith & Finance group. (That group has supported The Stocking Project over the years and there are a few women from that group who have faithfully participated year after year.)

With financial help, hands-on gift bag packing, and delivery help, we have continued The Stocking Project until present day! Praise God!



Present Day

Annually our group assembles 150-180 individual gift bags

filled with small gifts and personal care items which are donated to residents living in local domestic abuse shelters at the holidays.

Our mission is to reach out to the women living in these crisis centers at the holidays to let them know someone is thinking about them and cares about them as they deal with the complex issues of keeping themselves and their children safe.

How You Can Be Involved

Volunteers purchase, sort, wrap, package, and deliver the gift bags to the shelters in time for Christmas.

We are seeking volunteers to help with any aspect of The Stocking Project this year. For example, children and teen volunteers have helped unwrap and sort bulk packaging. We also need help with packing the gift bags, tying bows, and delivering bags to shelters. If you would like to be involved in any aspect of The Stocking Project this year, please reach out to Kim Barnett at (612)618-3637 to learn more.

—Kim Barnett, Peace Member and The Stocking Project Lead

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On The Cover

Photography by Nellie Adamyan.
Courtesy of Unsplash.

Submissions

Do you have an idea for a story or would love to write? Contact Daina Sivanich with your submission, but please keep in mind the following guidelines: (a) Your article will be reviewed by Peace staff for suitability and may be edited for length and content. (b) Articles must fit the overall theme of the issue and reflect the mission of Peace Lutheran Church.



Service Sunday
**LWR Personal Care
Kit Packing**
Sunday, October 5
Immediately following
worship in the Parish Hall



Service Sunday
**Oatmeal Food
Packing**
Sunday, November 9
Immediately following
worship in the Parish Hall

Service & Mission Committee Welcomes New Members

The Service & Mission Committee is seeking new members to augment our committee. We meet once a month, usually the last Tuesday, for about an hour to discuss ways our committee and congregation can serve not only our local community but globally, too.

We are a hands-on group looking for new ideas while staying committed to our core

organizations. If you are interested in joining our committee or have any questions, please contact Kris Holm at (507) 828-0578 or Joanne Vance at (760) 458-5850.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 23 at 6:30pm. Come join us!

Transition Team Update

Following is an update from the Transition Team of Peace Lutheran Church.

You may recall that the Transition Team is taking on certain foundational activities prior to the actual call process for a permanent pastor. Recognizing that the congregation is deeply invested in the process, we'd like to provide an update on this moment in the history of Peace Lutheran Church (background on the recent departures of our two pastors), identify our Transition Team members, outline our focus and activities in the coming months, and give you a preview of how you can be involved and participate in the future.

Transition Committee Members

The members of the Transition Committee include the following, along with any roles they currently carry:

Gene Cross
 Tammy Devine,
 Committee Co-chair
 Julie and Jeremy Macejkovic
 Connor Myhre
 Virginia Olson
 Emily and Sam Sidhom
 Emily is Committee Co-chair
 Amy Strasheim
 Angela and Adam Tschida

Lauren and Matt Toppin
 Lori Thomson
 Peace Administrator and
 Committee Secretary
 Dave Thoen
 Peace Council President
 Pastor Jeff Engholm
 Interim Pastor

This group was chosen to represent a wide range of church member demographics, and each member brings valuable perspectives and skills to the process. Please note that this group of members will eventually make up the Call Committee once the transition activities are complete. They will be officially installed and recognized on Sunday, September 7th, 2025.

Recent History and How We Got Here

Peace Lutheran Church has experienced the departure of two pastors this year, and the Transition Team would like to provide additional context to the stories behind these departures and address differences in how they were handled.

First, Pastor Joe Orner. Pastor Joe voluntarily left Peace, and provided only two weeks' notice in his resignation letter. With limited time available, the only departure activity we were able to organize for him was a

celebration after his last Sunday in the Parish Hall. Pastor Joe is now serving as an Interim Pastor at Transfiguration Lutheran Church in Bloomington.

Second, Pastor Mark Nelson. Shortly after Joe's departure, Pastor Mark voluntarily decided to leave, and provided two months' notice. Over the course of eight weeks, we were able to hire an Interim Pastor and plan for Pastor Mark's departure celebrations. Pastor Mark was at Peace Lutheran Church for 19 years, and with the length of the notice he provided, we were able to plan several gatherings to honor and thank Pastor Mark and Marcie for their service and contributions to our congregation. As Pastor Mark shared before his departure, he and Marcie are serving congregations in Cairo, Egypt for several months before they spend some relaxing time in France and determine their future plans. They've made it very clear that Minnesota is still their permanent home and will return!

The Church Council and the Church Staff decided that the Staff and other wonderful volunteers would continue the current programs at Peace after the departures of our two

pastors. It was determined that an immediate call for an Associate Pastor did not make sense after hearing about Pastor Mark's departure. Therefore, the decision was made to first hire an Interim Pastor, and then follow up with transition activities to determine what was needed for Peace Lutheran Church in regard to future staffing. The transition activities being undertaken by the Transition Team are described below.

Transition Committee Activities and Goals

The Transition Team is currently focused on two activities:

Congregational Survey

The team is developing a survey that is intended to get feedback from the congregation regarding a wide range of questions and topics. **This is your first opportunity to provide your opinions!** The survey will be shared through a number of different methods so everyone has a chance to respond.

Listening Sessions

Following the Congregational Survey, small group listening sessions will be made available for people to share additional feedback. We expect this to happen under a number of different environments (i.e. Sunday after service, weeknight

sessions, in-home visits, etc.). **This will be another opportunity to provide feedback and opinions.**

After the collected information is reviewed and summarized, the Transition Team will prepare documents and required forms to begin a Call Process. Gathering this information will take time, but we believe it is essential to make sure we have a clear future direction in place for Peace Lutheran Church before initiating the Call Process.

Summary

Thank you for your patience during this time of data gathering, and please share your opinions once the survey comes out and the listening sessions begin.

Finally, please reach out to anyone on the Transition Team/Call Committee with any questions!

Respectfully Submitted,

—*The Transition Team
Communications Team: Pastor Jeff
Engholm, Amy Strasheim, Connor
Myhre, Dave Thoen*

SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, September 28

Plan to stay for Sunday Adult Education, on Sunday, September 28, from 10:45 to 11:45am for an important Transition Team Update.

You'll meet the Transition Team members, hear what they have been working on, and how you can be involved this fall.

Congregational Fall Festival

Sunday, October 26, 10:30am

After worship on Sunday, October 26, Peace will have a congregational fall festival for all in the Parish Hall. There will be fall treats, pumpkin painting, crafts and other fun activities.



This event will take place instead of Sunday School and Adult Education.

If you would like to help with event, please contact Angela Tschida or Marcia Craig.

Fall Adult Fellowship Dinner Returns

Saturday, November 15, 6:00pm

A fall fellowship dinner is planned for Peace adults aged 21 plus on Saturday, November 15 starting at 6:00pm.

We'll meet in groups of eight at various host homes and we'll all enjoy the same menu with easy-to-prepare menu items. Everyone will bring something to the dinner! (Hosts will prepare the entrée.)

Sign up either online on Peace's website or at the information kiosk. Please indicate if you are willing to be a host home.

This is a fun way to get to know other Peace members! Join in!

The Menu

Baked Brie with Brandied Cranberries

Oven Roasted Garlic-Herb Turkey Tenderloins

Make-Ahead Mashed Potatoes

Green Beans with Shallot Butter

Apple Stuffing Muffins

Two Desserts:

Pecan Slab Pie

Pumpkin Slab Pie



Fellowship Committee Starting Up

Do you enjoy planning events, get togethers, fellowship opportunities? We have a space for you! We are looking to get a Fellowship Committee going at Peace. This committee would be responsible for

fostering a sense of community and belonging among members. They plan and organize social events, and celebrations focusing on building community. The various activities could include:

potlucks, game nights, movie nights, and other gatherings to promote interaction and fellowship. If you are interested, please contact Lori Thomson at lori.thomson@peacebloomington.org.

Fall Fellowship



Gathering Sunday Day of Fun will be on **Sunday, September 7** after worship. We'll have special treats, meet Pastor Engholm if you haven't yet, enjoy the bounce house and fun treats!



Singles 65+ Group will be heading out to lunch at Lola's Lakehouse (318 East Lake Street, Waconia) on **Wednesday, September 10, 11:30am**. Contact Gary Vig for more information and to RSVP.



Age 80+ Fall Luncheon is planned for **Thursday, October 2, 11:30am**. Want to volunteer to help with this event? Please contact Daina Sivanich in the church office.



Congregational Fall Festival: Join in the fall fun on **Sunday, October 26** during Fellowship Time (10:30-11:45am). We'll have fall treats for everyone, pumpkin decorating, and other crafts and fall activities.



Adult Fellowship Dinner: We'll gather on **Saturday, November 15 at 6:00pm** in groups of 8 at host homes and we'll all enjoy the same menu! It's a great way to get to know other people from Peace! Sign up on Peace's website or at the information kiosk.



Sunday Fellowship Pie Fest: **Sunday, November 23** celebrate Thanksgiving and all our blessings with a pie fest! Please bring a pie to share.

Ongoing Fellowship

Tuesday Mornings at Peace

On the **1st, 3rd, and occasional 5th Tuesday of the month, the quilters** will meet to stitch and sew. The Quilters will resume meeting on Tuesday, September 3, 10:00am.

Book Group

The book group is coming on its one year anniversary! They meet **monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 6:45pm** and new members are welcome! Contact Lori Thomson for more information.

Yoga

Monday nights, 5:30pm. The group meets at the Normandale Lake Bandshell. If there is rain or if temps fall under 65 degrees, the yogis will meet at Peace in the front meeting room.

Single Adults 65+ Group

This casual group for older singles enjoys getting out and going places! Contact Gary Vig at gvig33@gmail.com or (952) 941-3877 for more information.

Look for more information about each of these events on Peace's website, in the Sunday bulletin, or in the Friday e-Note and/or in the CYF Blast.

Sign up at the information kiosk or online this fall.

Church Council News

Greetings Peace Lutheran Church Members! This article is intended to get you up-to-date on what's happening with your Church Council since the last update. In this update, the listing of who is on the Church Council, and any role that person plays and their years of service will be listed again, an update on income and expenses through July, 2025 will be provided, and the role that the Peace Council plays on the Transition Team/Call Committee will be shared.

2025-2026 Church Council Members

The 2025-2026 Church Council, along with their years of service and current roles, are as follows:

- Third Year: Holly Long (Secretary), Emily Sidhom, Dave Thoen (President)
- Second Year: Josh Braband, Andy Loeffler (Vice-President), Cindy Olson
- First Year: Robin Kennedy, Michelle Stockinger, Tom Tisthammer (Treasurer)

Please reach out to any of us with any comments, thoughts, concerns, etc.

Financial Update

At our last Annual Meeting on February 2, 2025, the Peace Council proposed, and the

Congregation accepted, an annual budget of approximately \$776,000, for the calendar year 2025. Since we now have financial information through July, 2025, progress towards that number is being provided.

On the giving side, with a budgeted giving amount through July of \$453K, we have had giving of \$436K, or approximately \$17K under budget. On the expense side, expenses through June 2025 have been \$404K, or approximately \$49K below budget. While we are a very small bit behind budget related to giving in 2025, we are much more below on expenses related to budget. Through July 2025, our giving over expenses for the year is approximately \$32K!

Thank you for everyone's generosity in your giving to help us to continue our mission at Peace Lutheran Church!

Role of the Peace Council on the Transition Team/Call Committee

The Transition Team/Call Committee reports to the Peace Council with recommendations and any documentation to support those recommendations. Council President Dave Thoen and Transition Team Co-Chair Emily

Sidhom are on both groups so they can keep the Council updated as progress is made and relate any recommendations from the Transition Team to the Council. Therefore, while the Transition Team is working, the Council will know what the most recent updates are.

With that said, both the Transition Team (listed on page 14) and the Peace Council should all be aware of current updates.

That's all from your Peace Lutheran Church Council. Again, please reach out to anyone if you have any feedback you'd like to share.

Respectfully,

—Dave Thoen, Peace Lutheran Church Council President



Devotion: “Remembering”

Remembering our history. Remembering our traditions. Remembering our past. It's in the act of remembering that we find our meaning, our values, our identity. And it's in our remembering the past that gives us the energy to launch into the future.

In the coming days during this time of transition, we are going to be engaging in three major activities: we are going to look to the past to get a sense of our history, we are going to look to the future to get a sense of where we are headed, and we are going to look to the present to get a sense of where we are now. And the first step, of course, will be to remember, because it's only by getting a sense of this foundation from the past that we will be able to step out into the future.

Holy Scripture is full of references to remembering:

- “Remember the days of old, consider the years long past.” (Deuteronomy 32:7)
- “I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord and I will remember your wonders of old.” (Psalm 77:11)
- “Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead—that is my gospel.” (2 Timothy 2:8)

In these scripture passages, along with so many others, we are asked to look back at our history and discover the foundation of our faith which is grounded in GOD. In the beginning, GOD created the heavens and the earth...In the Exodus, GOD

helped Moses lead the people from captivity to freedom...In Bethlehem, it was GOD who was born in a stable on a cold, dark night...And on Good Friday and Easter morning, it was GOD who showed that nothing, not even death, could stop GOD'S deep, abiding love for all creation.

Of course, the stories of God's powerful love are not just found in the Bible. In our own lives, it's GOD who carries us through our painful times, it's GOD who celebrates with us in our joyful times, and it's GOD who is with us every single day of our lives. At Peace Lutheran Church, it was GOD who helped establish this congregation in 1978, it was GOD who helped this congregation grow through the years, and it was GOD who has guided every pastor, council member, staff member, and congregational member every single day of this congregation's life.

Over the next several months we will be sharing stories of GOD'S faithful presence in our past so that veteran members can remember these days and so that newer members can hear these stories to gain a deeper understanding of this church. I'm looking forward to hearing these stories and discovering how GOD has been guiding this congregation and preparing it for the next chapter of life.

—Pastor Jeff Engholm

Staff and Contact Information

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Growing a community that
nurtures a deeper relationship
with Jesus Christ.

Three Tasks for the Transition at Peace

1. Honoring the past. Exploring the present. Looking to the future.

Without vision, the people perish.—Proverbs 29:18

2. Stay calm. Stay connected.

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.—Colossians 3:14

3. Be truth-tellers.

Speak the truth in love.—Ephesians 4:14