

partners

Peace Lutheran Church

Summer 2025



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

from the senior pastor

Thank You!

July 29, 2025,

Dear Peace Members:

I'm still living in the glow of this last week's festivities. Your expressions of thanks and good wishes both Sunday morning and Wednesday evening are still fresh for me. The gracious words of so many, your generous gifts, a beautiful painting, and all the laughter and memories; Marcie and I were blessed in countless ways. I'm grateful for all of you. I am sad my time as your pastor has come to an end. I also smile because I am so, so grateful our time together happened.

I am not only grateful, I am confident that Peace will go forward in the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Peace is graced with each of you, a

talented and dedicated staff, and now Interim Pastor Jeff Engholm. I am confident God will continue to richly bless the ministry of this place in the years to come.

My feelings for you, my prayer for you, is best spoken by Paul: *"I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God's grace....and this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more*

with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God (Philippians 1).

To the glory and praise of God!

—Pastor Mark Nelson



Seasonal Worship Guide

August

3	10	17	24	31
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am
Holy Communion, Interim Pastor Engholm Installation	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
Fellowship and Celebration Welcoming Pastor Engholm	Fellowship	Fellowship	Fellowship	Fellowship

September

7	14	21	28
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Gathering Sunday, 9:30am	Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am
Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion, Peace Choir	Holy Communion; Peace Choir
Extended Fellowship Time, Sunday School Kickoff	Fellowship, Sunday Adult Education, Sunday School	Fellowship, Sunday Adult Education, Sunday School	Fellowship, Sunday Adult Education, Sunday School

Gathering Sunday is September 7th!

Join us for worship at 9:30am as we gather again after the summer.

After worship, enjoy fellowship time, catch up with one another, and, if you haven't yet, meet Pastor Engholm (see page 6).

Sunday School children ages 3 through 5th Grade will gather in the sanctuary to meet their teachers, have Celebration Time, then head outside to enjoy the bouncy houses in the parking lot!

September 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 Celebration Time then we'll head outside to bounce around in bouncy houses!

Sunday, September 14



Join us in the Parish Hall as we welcome Kristofer Phan Coffman from Luther Seminary.

Kristofer is an Assistant Professor of New Testament.

Sundays, September 21 and 28

Topics to be announced.

Sunday Adult Education is subject to change.

News from the Church Council President

Greetings Peace Lutheran Church Members!

This article is intended to get you up-to-date on what's happening with your Church Council, because there is a lot happening! The updates covered will be a listing of who is on the Church Council, and any role that person plays, and their years of service. There will also be an update on the Interim Pastor process. In addition, an update on income and expenses through June, 2025 will be shared. Finally, there will be an update on the activities related to the Transition/Call Committee.

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.

Interim Pastor Process

With Pastor Mark's leave-taking, we set out to find an Interim Pastor. This Pastor will perform the role of our Lead Pastor while the Transition/Call Committee works to find a permanent replacement(s). As you will see on page 6, Pastor Jeff Engholm has been signed on to take this role.

Regarding our process to find Pastor Engholm, we received his resume from the Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA, chatted with him on the phone, then invited him in for an interview. The Church Council performed that interview, and everyone was in agreement that he would be an outstanding Interim Pastor. Background checks and reference checks were performed, and we were fortunate enough to have several friends of friends on Council who knew Pastor Jeff, and all our background checks and reference checks turned out positive. With that, an agreement was made with Pastor Jeff, and he will be starting August 1st, with his first Sunday at Peace being August 3rd. We hope everyone will make a strong effort to attend

service on August 3rd as we welcome Pastor Jeff!

Financial Update

At our last Annual Meeting in January, 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 the first half of 2025, an update on giving and expenses is being provided.

On the giving side, with a budgeted giving amount through June of \$388K, we have had giving of \$390K, or approximately \$2K over budget. On the expense side, expenses through June 2025 have been \$351K, or approximately \$37K below budget. Therefore, our giving over expenses for the year is approximately \$39K!

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

Transition/Call Committee

The following Peace members have agreed to be on the Transition/Call Committee and, after doing some initial tasks, will lead our search for a new permanent pastor. This group has also been approved by the Peace Council, therefore, this is a finalized group of members. However, as we move forward

we may add more members if needed.

Members of this committee are:

Gene Cross
 Tammy Devine
 Julie and Jeremy Macejkovic
 Connor Myhre
 Virginia Olson
 Emily and Sam Sidhom
 Amy Strasheim
 Angela and Adam Tschida
 Lauren and Matt Toppin
 Lori Thomson
 Dave Thoen

This group was chosen, and accepted the call to assist, and represents a wide age group as well as parents who have children. The first two tasks of the Transition Committee will be as follows:

- Determine a direction for staffing in the future.
- Request feedback from our congregation on a variety of topics. This will be a great opportunity for everyone to be heard with your feedback, concerns, things we do well, etc.

Please feel free to help this committee in any way you are able.

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.



Welcome Pastor Jeffrey Engholm



Greetings from your new Interim Pastor! I am both honored and grateful to begin serving at Peace Lutheran Church as we move through this time of transition. I'm also excited for us to get to know each other in the coming days, so as we begin that process, here is a little bit about me...

I was born and raised in Galesburg, Illinois, about 150 miles southwest of Chicago.

After finishing high school, I graduated from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois with a double major in Psychology/Sociology. I then moved to Minnesota where I spent the next three years doing youth ministry, first in a congregation in Sacred Heart, and then at Green Lake Bible Camp in Spicer. After graduating from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, I served congregations in North Dakota, Illinois, and western Minnesota. My most recent call was at Trinity Lutheran Church in Watertown, on the western edge of the Twin Cities, where I served for the past ten years.

I currently live in St. Paul with my wife, Susan, who is also a Lutheran pastor. My son and his wife live in Robbinsdale with their two children, ages 10 and 7. My daughter lives in San Diego with her husband and

their two children, ages 6 and 4. In my spare time I enjoy exploring local neighborhoods, going for walks with my wife, and playing upright bass with my bluegrass band.

As I look to the days ahead and consider the work of the council, staff, Transition Team, and congregation as a whole, I think of this passage from Romans 8:28: "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." I don't know exactly what lies ahead for us, but I do know that we love God, that we have been called according to God's purpose, and that God will work everything together for good.

God's Peace,

Pastor Jeffrey M. Engholm

Pastor Engholm's First Sunday at Peace

Please join us on Sunday, August 3 for Pastor Engholm's first Sunday presiding over worship at Peace.

Stay after worship for fellowship time and to introduce yourself and get to know Pastor Engholm!

More Staffing Announcements

Children's Programming Coordinator

Peace is pleased to announce Marcia Craig as our Children's Programming Coordinator for 2025-2026! Read on to learn more about Marcia and what she brings to Peace and the Sunday School children.



After attending Carthage College, the Lutheran college in Wisconsin; I continued to move East. My next stop was Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland Ohio for a Master's in

Museum Education - a shout out to John Sandness and Bruce Hudson, also alumni of that university. I ended up in coastal New Jersey when I married my husband Jim. We lived in New Jersey for 40 years working and raising our three children, Sarah, Catherine and Andrew. I was busy in New Jersey raising our children while my husband traveled the world for his career. I was active in our local Lutheran Church teaching, singing in choir, serving on church council and general all around church member. I served on the Synod Council for New Jersey, chaired the Fiscal

Management/Property Committee for the Synod and acted as the treasurer of Camp Crossroads, the camping ministry of the New Jersey Synod and the Diocese of the Episcopal Church of Newark.

Ten years ago we decided to move to Minneapolis in retirement. My parents, Bob and Ruth Carlson and my sister Marilyn Carlson were active members at Peace throughout their lives. My brother and sister-in-law, Mike Carlson and Tammy Divine along with myself are pleased to continue our family's involvement."

We look forward to all the talents and skills that Marcia brings to Peace!

—Lori Thomson, Church Administrator

Maintenance Staff Hired

We have hired Tom Walter to join our staff in August as part-time maintenance staff. Please give him a warm welcome.

—Lori Thomson, Church Administrator

Lutheran World Relief Baby Care Kit Recap



On Sunday, May 4th members of Peace packed 152 baby kits for Lutheran World Relief. These kits contain 2 sleepers without feet, 2 t-shirts, 2 pair of socks, a jacket with a hood or a sweater and hat, hand towel, 3 bars of soap, 4 cloth diapers and two flannel blankets about 36" square. The items are wrapped in the blankets, secured with two diaper pins and packed in boxes to be delivered to the LWR warehouse in St Paul.

Many worked to prepare these kits. Pat Rosborough knit adorable sweaters and hats which will be a treat for mothers to receive. People

washed blankets, diapers and clothes. Blankets were sewn. Thrivent gave a grant to buy flannel. Some of the items, such as the towel, soap and diapers, are new. Other items are bought in local thrift stores. All items must be in excellent condition to get through customs in other countries.

In Tanzania, one-third of children are stunted due to chronic malnutrition in their early years. Stunting is more than being short—it prevents a child from reaching their potential in almost every way. In the colder Njombe region, a study revealed children were burning too many calories trying to keep warm rather than to grow. Warm clothes and quilts make a significant

difference.

In Ukraine, quilts and kits are part of a massive humanitarian response that is reaching your neighbors when they need it most. Families who fled to shelters brought few comforts with them. These kits are both useful and a reminder that even in the midst of crisis, they are loved and not forgotten.

Baby kits have gone to Tanzania, Ukraine, Mali, Dominican Republic and Angola. Thank you from the Service & Mission Committee for being a part of this expression of love for our neighbor.

—Kris Holm, Service & Mission Committee Co-Chair



Lutheran Social Service Thanks Peace

Peace received a thank you letter from Lutheran Social Service for our contribution of \$1,000.00 on May 12, 2025 in support of the refugee services provided by LSS.



2026 Mission Trip Opportunity Announced

Robin's Nest Children's Home, Montego Bay, Jamaica

Register by August 3

The Service & Mission Committee has set up an adult mission trip for January 17-24, 2026 to Robin's Nest Children's Home in Jamaica. The maximum number of participants will be 16.

Robin's Nest is nestled on the mountaintop of Montego Bay. About a 45-minute drive from the airport, the Nest is surrounded by luscious hills and a view of the ocean. The property holds a main house (Big House), Jake's House, playground, swimming pool, garden, chicken coop, and a preschool.

Robin's Nest's vision is to provide a safe and secure Christian environment for the children God places in their

care—while providing basic needs, medical care, unconditional love, and education to which they need to grow. Their main goal is to transform hurting children into spiritually, physically, and



mentally healthy believers who are prepared to impact the world around them.

Our team will be split by male/female and will stay in dorms

right on the Robin's Nest property. We will assist in meal service, bedtime routines, homework help, Bible studies, crafts, large muscle play, and support the staff. We may help with a building project or grounds upkeep, depending on what project is slated for the week that we are there.

We would love to have you join us on this adventure! Registration forms can be found at the information kiosk. Please complete along with a \$250 deposit by Sunday, August 3.

Questions? Please contact Venita Ditlevson at vnita123@aol.com.

—Venita Ditlevson, Service & Mission Committee Member

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!

VBS Was a Hit!

Summer for Peace's kids and youth kicked off the week of June 23 with Vacation Bible School. This year's theme was "True North"—trust Jesus when you have doubts and fears.

VBS was hosted in conjunction with Community of the Cross Lutheran Church. We had 18 Peace kids in attendance learning and playing and basking in God's love. And our thanks to 11 Peace adult and youth volunteers for volunteering their time!

—Daina Sivanich



Sunday School Starts September 7

Sunday School is one of our best tools for growth and spiritual development for our youngest generations of Peacegoers. Through Sunday School, we're able to fulfill the promises we make as a community in baptism.

Our curriculum follows the Old Testament in the fall and the Gospels and New Testament during the winter and spring. These combine to build a firm foundation for their faith. And between singing during Celebration Time and lesson time in classrooms, children will both experience and gain a better understanding of God's love for them and the world.

Sunday School is always free and is open to members and non-members. Invite your friends or neighbors to join us Sunday mornings!

—Daina Sivanich

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 Friday e-note and on the home page of Peace's website.

To help us plan for the next academic year, please sign up as soon as possible.

Sunday School Teachers

Are you interested in investing in Peace's children? We are seeking adults and students 6th grade and up to help our students in our Sunday School program!

We ask teachers to commit to teaching at least two Sundays per month. There will be at least two adult leaders assigned to each room plus 1-2 assistants to provide flexibility and support.

Have a busy schedule? We also need substitutes to serve when needed. If interested, please contact Marcia Craig at marcia.craig@peacebloomington.org.

Life Passages

Weddings

- **Stephanie Kaare and Jacob Bunge** were married on Friday, April 25, 2025 in Des Moines, IA. Stephanie is the daughter of Steve and Sharon Kaare.

Baptisms

- **Harrison Hansen Dorn** baptized on May 11, 2025. Harrison is the son of Robert and Erin Dorn. His sponsors are Mark and Rachel Hansen and Mike and Stephanie Hopkins.
- **Christian John Alexander Thompson** baptized on June 22, 2025. Christian is the son of John and Katie Thompson. His sponsors are Sarah Talbott, Kirsten Barin, Sarah Meyer and Matthew Thompson.
- **Brynn Weeks Talbott** baptized on June 22, 2025. Brynn is the daughter of Sam and Sarah Talbott. Her sponsors are Katie and John Thompson.

Grieving

- **Cynthia Fossan** on the death of her sister-in-law, Janet Mackedanz on April 17, 2025.
- **Connie Schumann** upon the death of her husband, Kurt, on April 21, 2025.
- **Sam and Emily Sidhom** and family on the death of Sam's mother, Ruth Sidhom on April 25, 2025.
- **Scott and Carrie Moe** and family upon the death of Scott's mother, Janet Moe on July 15, 2025.

Milestones

- **Birthday wishes to Lee Truhlar** who turned **100 years old on Friday, July 4. Happy Birthday, Lee!**
- Congratulations to Peace's high school graduates: **Owen Betlock, Abbi Davis, and Evie Stockinger.**
- Congratulations to Peace's college graduates: **Caspar Borggreve (University of Minnesota, BSN, Nursing), Emma Kennedy (Gustavus**

**Adolphus College, BA
Elementary Education).**

partners

Summer 2025

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PEACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Sunday Worship: 9:30am



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

A collection of colorful school supplies including pencils, paper clips, pushpins, and scissors, arranged on a dark surface.

**Sunday School and Confirmation
Online Registration Now Open!**

**Sunday School is for
children ages 3 through 5th Grade**

**Confirmation is for 6th through 8th
Grade youth**

Non-members are welcome!

**Non-members are welcome to join
the program!**

**Sunday School kicks off on
September 7th!**

Register online on Peace's website!