

partners

Peace Lutheran Church

Summer, 2026



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



It's not too late!

Sign up for the most fun week ever! We'll sing, dance, play games, make new friends, get messy, and more!

Most of all, we'll discover the nature of God!

Visit Peace's website for a link to online registration.

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Devotion

“Growing Season”

As summer approaches, we are about to embark on the season in our church year called “Ordinary Time.” It doesn’t sound very exciting, does it? At least, it’s not as exciting as the other seasons of the church year. Remember how far we have come over the past liturgical year?

We began last December in Advent, when we were preparing for the birth of Christ. Isaiah 9:6 reminded us of this truth: *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.* We lit the candles on the Advent Wreath and counted down the Sundays until we finally came to...

Christmas! During this season we celebrated Christ’s birth as we listened to the angels, walked with the shepherds, and followed the star to Bethlehem. Through it all we discovered again the truth of John 1: *In the beginning was the Word... And the Word became flesh and lived among us.*

Following the Christmas season was the season of Epiphany, the Season of Light. We celebrated the light of Christ that has broken into our midst and shattered our darkness.

These words from John 1:9 say it best: *The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.*

But then we turned to the season of Lent as we walked with Jesus toward the cross. We were encouraged to reclaim our connection with God, as stated in Joel 2:12: *Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful.* Lent ended with Good Friday, which was followed by...

Easter! What a great celebration we had in April when we joined the women at the tomb and listened to the angel’s greeting from Luke 24:5: *Why do you seek the living among the dead? Jesus is risen, he is not here.*

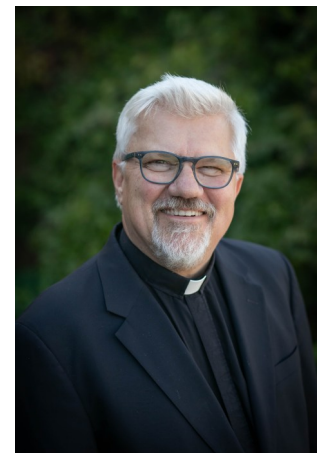
And finally at Pentecost, Christ’s power of new life was unleashed in fire and wind, as we read in Acts 2: *When the day of Pentecost had come, suddenly there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.*

Just look at far we have come through all these seasons and celebrations of the church year! And now, finally, we begin this

season of “ordinary time.” But what exactly does that mean? Does “ordinary” mean boring, lackluster, dull? Hardly! By definition, “ordinary” simply means “regular, customary, belonging to the usual order or course.” In these days following the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, we will simply grow deeper in the faith, like a plant that grows its roots deeper in the soil.

Throughout the pages of this issue of *Partners* you will find many opportunities for living an “ordinary life” through worship, fellowship, and service opportunities. “Ordinary” doesn’t mean “boring” – it means cherishing each quiet moment of each and every day.

—Pastor Jeff Engholm



Seasonal Worship Guide

June

May 31	7	14	21	28
The Holy Trinity, First Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Time after Pentecost, 9:30am	Time after Pentecost, 9:30am	Time after Pentecost, 9:30am	Time after Pentecost, 9:30am
Matthew 28:16-20	Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26	Matthew 9:35- 10:8 [10:9-23]	Matthew 10:24- 39	Matthew 10:40-42
Holy Communion, High School Senior Recognition	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
Fellowship / Sundaes Sunday	Fellowship	Fellowship	Fellowship	Fellowship

July

5	12	19	26
Time after Pentecost, 9:30am	Time after Pentecost, 9:30am	Time after Pentecost, 9:30am	Time after Pentecost, 9:30am
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-53
—	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
Fellowship	Fellowship	Fellowship	Fellowship

August

2	9	16	23	30
Time after Pentecost, 9:30am	Time after Pentecost, 9:30am	Time after Pentecost, 9:30am	Time after Pentecost, 9:30am	Time after Pentecost, 9:30am
Matthew 14:13-21	Matthew 14:22-33	Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28	Matthew 16:13-20	Matthew 16:21-28
Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
Fellowship	Fellowship	Fellowship	Fellowship	Fellowship

September

6
Time after Pentecost, 9:30am
Matthew 18:15-20
Holy Communion
Fellowship

Gathering Sunday is planned for Sunday, September 13!

Look for more information in August in your Sunday bulletin, the Friday e-Note, on Peace's website, or on Peace's Facebook page!

Service & Mission

Lenten Service Initiative Recap

Our church has been supporting St. Paul's - San Pablo Lutheran Church (ELCA) since ICE made its presence known so forcefully. This is a multicultural, multilingual, inclusive community in the Phillips neighborhood sharing Christ's love. A few of our members have been supporting this



church for a while and brought it to the attention of the Service & Mission Committee.

We had a food drive that split

the donations between San Pablo and VEAP. Peace also had a monetary request to our congregation during Lent. That, along with donations from the Pancake Breakfast, allowed us

to deliver a check for **over \$5,000** to aid in rent and other needs as determined by San Pablo's pastor, Hierald Osorto. This church serves in one of the youngest, most impoverished communities in Minneapolis and we at Peace Lutheran Church will continue to be a support to their members, sharing Christ's love.

—Joanne Vance, Co-Chair of the Service & Mission Committee

LWR Baby Care Kit Recap

On April 19, 2026 following worship, faith was in action in the Parish Hall. Peace members assembled 70 baby kits for distribution by Lutheran World Relief (LWR). Last year baby kits went to Madagascar, Ukraine, Zimbabwe, and Tanzania, places where people had suffered devastating catastrophe. Let me share what LWR tells about how quilts and baby kits make a difference in people's lives.

In Tanzania one of every three children suffers from stunting, a condition caused by chronic malnutrition and is prevalent in Tanzania. Stunted children are

most likely to get sick and because they have compromised immune systems, they take longer to recover. They have developmental delays and difficulty learning.

The Africa Health Institute conducted a study in 2020 to understand the drivers of stunting beyond nutritional input. They focused on the Njombe region which is mountainous and one of the coldest areas of Tanzania.

They observed that children often sat on a cold floor with very little or no clothes on and they concluded that children,

instead of using the food intake energy to grow, were using that energy to keep their body warm. That contributed to stunting. They thought about how quilts and clothes could keep kids warm and appealed to LWR.

The resulting project reached 9,000 children with quilts and clothes.

Each Peace member plays a part in bringing life and hope to this part of God's Kingdom. Thank you for your works of the heart.

—Kris Holm, Co-Chair of the Service & Mission Committee

Summer 2026 Service & Mission Initiatives

During the month of **June**, we will be collecting items from the congregation for **VEAP Birthday Bags that VBS will be assembling on Thursday, June 25**. The bags should be age and gender-neutral for kids under 12 years old and will contain: **Cake mix, Frosting, Birthday Napkins and Plates and Candles, small gifts (also gender-neutral) such as Bubbles, Chalk, Crayons, Coloring Books, Decks of Playing Cards**. Please consider donating any of these items.

We will have a gaily-decorated box available in the narthex for your donations.

Also, in June we will post a sign-up sheet to **work a 2-hour shift at VEAP**. This shift will take place in July. During this volunteer opportunity, we will breakdown donations of bulk produce into smaller sizes for families, which will then be placed on the VEAP grocery shelves. We will be looking for a maximum of **12 adult volunteers (age 18+)**. It's a

messy job, so dress accordingly. Look for the sign-up sheet for the specific July day and time.

During **July**, we will be collecting items for Poplar Bridge Elementary School. They are asking for: **Uno games** for families to play at home, **small journals, sketchbooks, coloring books, colored pencils and markers, puzzles, and Lego sets**. Please consider donating any of these items.

—*Joanne Vance, Co-Chair of the Service & Mission Committee*

Every Meal & Cornerstone Support

At the May 19, 2026 Service & Mission Committee meeting, we approved sponsoring seven students at Poplar Bridge Elementary School to receive Every Meal food bags every weekend throughout the 40-week school year. (Every Meal was formerly known as The

Sheridan Story.)

We also approved purchasing 40, \$25 gift cards for groceries to be sent to Cornerstone Advocacy Service to be distributed to their clients.

—*Joanne Vance, Co-Chair of the Service & Mission Committee*

Thrivent Members

Your Thrivent Choice dollars can be used here at Peace to support our programs of church and community service.

Please contact the church office or members of the Service & Mission Committee for more information.

—*Marcia Craig*

New Members Welcome Anytime!

The next Service & Mission Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, June 23, 6:30pm. We have an open forum at the beginning of our agenda for anyone to express their thoughts, concerns, or to tell us about a ministry or charity that you are interested in and would like our committee to consider for future

expenditures. 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. Come join us!

Sunday School...It's a Wrap

Thank You to Our Sunday School Students

This year has been a lot of fun for both the students and the teachers in Sunday School. From bouncing in the inflatable house in September to our great Christmas program in December. From Old Testament to New Testament lessons; to celebrating Jesus' resurrection!

Thank you to all our parents for bringing your children to church on Sundays. It is sometimes difficult in our busy lives to get the children ready

for church, so again, we thank you!

Thank You to our Sunday School Teachers

It is marvelous to acknowledge the work of Peace's Sunday School teachers. They have been present for our children through out the year—though fun and some snow storms!

Thanks to Cecelia Byers, Erin Henderson, Mary Kautto, Robin Kennedy, Katie Loeffler, Michelle Stockinger, and Angela Tschida, along with our confirmation student helpers—Emery Byers, Kalin Losinski,

Myla Macejkovic, Ayla Rogers, and Addison Tschida.

A special THANKS to Bruce Hudson for his work with Celebration Time—his patience and talent bring joy to all of our singers.

2026-2027

Sunday, September 20, 2026 will be our first day of Sunday school for the 2026-2027 school year. Please mark your calendars—further information will be sent to all in August.

Have a wonderful summer!

—*Marcia Craig, Children's Programming Coordinator*

VBS Coming to Peace this Summer!

Join us for Vacation Bible School as we explore **"THE NATURE OF GOD!"** We are joining with Community of the Cross Lutheran Church to learn and play this June. VBS runs from Monday though Thursday, June 22 -25, 9:00am-12:00 noon **at Peace.**

We will learn Bible stories, do science experiments, eat plenty of snacks and play outside—it is fun for all ages! Classes are offered for children age 3



(potty trained) through incoming 5th graders.

To help our program run smoothly, we need the help of older kids and/or adults. We need volunteers for registration,

snacks, and just general helping around the church during the hours the program operates.

If you are interested in having your child or grandchild attend, or if you would like to volunteer your time and patience to our children; please register online at www.myvbs.org/peace-cclc-vbs2026, or call the church office at (952) 944-6510, or call Marcia Craig directly at (732) 272-5196).

—*Marcia Craig*

Confirmation Congratulations



Over the past year, we have been holding confirmation classes each Wednesday night at Peace. Even though we use the word “class” to describe our confirmation program, confirmation is about much more than simply sharing “information” – it’s mostly about “faith formation” in order to help these young people grow deeper in their faith.

On April 26, 2026 Confirmation Sunday, ten young eighth graders made a public statement about their intent to continue their walk of faith with each other, with the church, and with God.

They spent the past year looking at their Christian faith

through a Lutheran lens, talking about the Ten Commandments, the Apostles Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, Holy Baptism, and Holy Communion. They gathered each Wednesday night with Pastor Jeff along with confirmation leaders, Ryan Byers and Corrin Freemark. But they also gathered at other times as well. We had a fall retreat at Augsburg University, a spring retreat at Camp Wapogasset, and a midwinter event packing nutritious meals with the Feed My Starving Children organization. We also had some fun along the way, going on local hikes, playing Whirlyball, and competing in the annual Broomball Tournament with other confirmation groups from local

churches. (Our kids won that tournament, by the way.) They also showed up on Sunday mornings, some of them helping with Sunday School, most of them helping with the pancake breakfast, and all of them serving as ushers and greeters for worship throughout the year.

All in all, these kids demonstrated that the church has a bright future as they continue to grow in faith in the years to come. Of course, they also demonstrated that the church has a bright PRESENT, since they already bring so many gifts to the church now!

—Pastor Jeff Engholm

Peace's High School Graduates

As the school year ends, we celebrate our high school graduates in the Class of 2026

Jonah Gehant, Jonathan McLoughlin, Elsa Oman, Avery Rich.

These students are kind, compassionate, and caring; they're hard-working, dedicated, and humble; they walk by faith, serve others humbly, and are more than equipped to move onto the next season of their lives.

Jonah Gehant will be attending the University of Minnesota's College of Science & Engineering where he plans to study Data Analytics.

Jonathan McLoughlin will also be attending the University of Minnesota's College of Science & Engineering and plans to study Mechanical Engineering and Computer Science.

Elsa Oman will be attending the University of Colorado in Boulder where she intends to study Psychology.

Avery Rich plans to attend Bates College in Lewiston, Maine where she will pursue Environmental Engineering and Environmental Policy. She will also be competing with the Bates Nordic Ski Racing Team.

We extend our congratulations to each of them and their families, and ask you to join us in continued prayer and support for them as well!



Jonah Gehant



Jonathan McLoughlin



Elsa Oman



Avery Rich

Call Committee Update

“But the spiritual path invites us into a deeper way of knowing—a wisdom that arises not from the mind, but from the heart’s quiet listening.”

—*Brian Plachta*

Listening is a key component of both spiritual discernment and answering a divine call. It invites us to set aside our preconceived ideas and judgments, allowing us to open ourselves fully to a deeper kind of hearing—not just of words and intonation, but also of silence.

In our noisy and chaotic world,

truly listening requires intention, practice, and presence. Embarking on a practice of deep listening encourages us to center ourselves, slow down, and observe. We begin by noticing what is stirring within us: what distractions or biases are active? Once we become aware of these internal movements, we are called to adjust our attitude. This means gently letting go of what hinders us from listening to the deepest part of ourselves—listening to the heart, which is listening to God’s heart.

The Call Committee has been faithfully invited into this profound practice. It is a journey that takes time to cultivate, and God’s holy listening sustains us through it.

This spiritual work gently asks us to release the ego’s desire for control, to step away from the pressure of quick results, and to trust the sacred, often slow, timeline of God. We are embracing a process of growth, both within ourselves and as a faith community.

As we continue the sacred journey of calling our next pastor, let us commit to growing together in our capacity to see, hear, and respect one another. For in every moment of listening, we affirm the truth: we are all God’s deeply loved children.

—*Submitted on behalf of the Call Committee by Tammy Devine and Lauren Toppin*

Each week the Call Committee provides an update on their activities in the Friday e-Note and in the Sunday Bulletin. Look for those weekly updates to get a sense of their progress.

Update as of May 22, 2026

The Call Committee met the evening of Monday, May 18, 2026. Pastor Jen Collins from the Minneapolis Area Synod presented a slate of eight pastoral candidates. Virtual first interviews with these pastors are scheduled for June 1st and 3rd.

Please keep the discernment of both the call committee and the pastors in your prayers.—
Lauren Toppin and Tammy Devine

Call Committee Members

Tammy Devine (Committee Co-Chair), Lauren Toppin (Co-Chair), Gene Cross, Julie and Jeremy Macejkovic, Connor Myhre, Virginia Olson, Amy Strasheim, Dave Thoen, Angela and Adam Tschida.

Church Council News

Greetings from the Peace Lutheran Church Council to all our members! In this update, which will be my last as my term has ended, there will be a listing of our Church Council effective May 1st, 2026; an update on our financials through March, 2026; and an update on our current projects/activities.

2026–2027 Council Members

The 2026-2027 Church Council, along with their years of service are as follows:

- Entering Third Year: Josh Braband, Andy Loeffler, Cindy Olson
- Entering Second Year: Robin Kennedy, Michelle Stockinger, Tom Tisthammer
- Entering First Year: Tammy Devine, Steve Larson, Ric Soderstrom

Financial Update

With data through March, 2026, the Peace financial position continues to remain strong.

On the giving side, with a budgeted giving amount through March 2026 of \$191K, we have had giving of \$202K, or approximately \$11K above budget. On the expense side, expenses through March 2026

have been \$149K, or approximately \$42K below budget. Therefore, through March 2026, revenue is above budget and revenue exceeds expenses by approximately \$53K. This is a great start to our financials in 2026. We do know that giving, and to a lesser extent, expenditures, can be seasonal, however, the start to 2026 has been financially positive.

Thank you for everyone's financial gifts so far in 2026 and we pray for your continued generosity throughout the year!

Peace Council Activities

At our last Council Meeting on April 21, 2026 the outgoing Council members encouraged the remaining and incoming members to continue doing some of the activities that were begun during the 2025–2026 Council Year: Wear Council badges while at church to be identifiable, assign someone every week to greet visitors, etc.

As your outgoing President, I've been asked to continue the development of Committees at Peace. This is being done to revive a thriving practice that was at Peace many years ago, to increase member

participation in leadership, take pressure off our staff, and prepare a welcoming community with many strong leaders for our new Pastor. Current Peace Committees are doing great work, and we want to add to those committees.

If you have a skill or want to be more active, please reach out to me and we'll find a place either on an existing committee or a new committee. Committees are fun, you get to be social and meet a lot of people, and you'll be helping our community.

Finally, special thanks to all our Council Members, who helped make this past year as president enjoyable, to our Peace Staff, who always deliver when we need them, and to our congregation, as you prayed for us, provided us feedback, and gave us purpose for our activities.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Thoen, Peace Lutheran Church Past Council President



2026-2027 Church Council Officers

Congratulations to the following people who were elected as officers for 2026-2027 at the Church Council meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2026: President, Andy Loeffler; Vice President, Michelle Stockinger; Treasurer, Tom Tisthammer; and Secretary, Robin Kennedy.

Meet the New Church Council Members

On Sunday, May 3, 2026 we installed newly-elected Church Council members, Tammy Devine, Steve Larson, and Ric Soderstrom. Read on to get to know each of them a little better.

What is one of your favorite things about Peace?



Tammy Devine: I appreciate the thoughtful way music and scripture are woven together to deeper our worship.



Steve Larson: Peace has a small community feel to it. There are a lot of people here who I consider friends. Pastors have been excellent since Sue and I have been members.



Ric Soderstrom: Ric is on vacation and was unable to provide us with commentary.

What would you tell a prospective visitor or member about Peace?

TD: Peace is an intergenerational community that respects all ages.

SL: Peace has a strong religious presence, yet it is still kind of laid back. People are extremely friendly. There isn't a sense of Pastors, Staff or Council Members being unreachable. Very open door mentality.

How have you grown as a result of being a member of Peace?

TD: I have come to value the importance of reaching out to youth, visitors and members to welcome one another.

SL: My college roommate used to say we were "strong believers, weak participators". The participation portion has definitely increased since being a member of Peace.

If Peace were an animal, what kind of animal would it be?

TD: A lamb.

SL: It would definitely be a friendly animal. Nothing intimidating; like a family pet.

What is one of your favorite hymns or piece of church music?

TD: "Jesu, Jesu"

SL: "One Bread, One Body"

What is your favorite donut?

TD: Old Fashioned.

SL: Glazed!

—Daina Sivanich

Fellowship at Peace

Fall 2025 we kicked off a new fellowship committee whose members are Denise Thoen (Chair), Lori Thomson (Secretary), Marcia Craig, Mary Kautto, Joy Kjeldahl, Rachel Kylo and Kim Myhre. There is always room for more; all are welcome to join!

We offer a wide variety of events and would love to have your ideas for future events and your participation.

A preview to a few upcoming summer events follows. Look to the Sunday bulletin, Friday e-Note, or website for more information.



"Cover Lovers" Summer Concerts!

Meet up with Peace friends behind Hyland Hills' ski chalet for Music on the Hill and downtown Shakopee for Rhythm on the Rails for free outdoor cover band concerts for all ages on **Wednesday nights this summer**. Look for Peace "hosts" wearing bright pink t-shirts and holding a pink flag.

Bring your own lawn chair and be prepared to walk. At Hyland Hills' Music on the Hill, doors open at 5:00pm; concerts start at 7:00pm. At Shakopee's Rhythm on the Rails (Lewis Street in downtown Shakopee), events include food, games and music from 6:00-9:00pm. Carpooling will be organized for Shakopee concerts—come to Peace at 5:30pm and we'll drive there together.



Wooden Hill Brewing Midsummer Market, Dinner, Brewery Tour

Summer is around the corner, and so is Wooden Hill Brewing's Midsummer Market! Join us **Thursday, June 18th** for a visit to Wooden Hill. We will shop local vendors, have a beverage and dinner, then get a tour led by Peace's very own Brewmaster, Jeremy Churchill! All ages welcome! This is a perfect time to get a gift for Father's Day. Check out Wooden Hill's cellar releases and participate in fun giveaways!

We will meet at Peace at **4:00pm** to carpool (or meet us there—7421 Bush Lake Road, Edina). Sign up at the information kiosk.



Sovereign Winery Wine Tasting

Join us for an afternoon outdoor wine tasting at Sovereign Winery overlooking Lake Waconia on **Tuesday, July 7, 11:30am-3:00pm**. We'll carpool from Peace at 10:45am. The cost is \$54/person (payable to Peace Lutheran Church) which includes a wine tasting of five wines, lunch, dessert, coffee and a concert in an outdoor venue. Cash bar available during lunch for wine or soda. Ages 21+.

Sign up by Friday, June 19 online or at the information kiosk with your lunch choice and if you are able to provide a ride.

Cover Lovers Summer Concerts

June

- June 3, Mick Sterling: Heart and Soul (Huey Lewis), Hyland Hills Music on the Hill
- June 17, NEIL! Martin Zellar's Tribute to Neil Diamond, Rhythm on the Rails, Shakopee
- June 24, Not Quite Brothers--Tribute to Arena Rock, Shakopee

July

- July 8, Def Legend --World's Greatest Tribute to Def Leppard, Shakopee
- July 15, The World According to Garth, Shakopee
- July 22, Parrothead Paradise--Tribute to Jimmy Buffet, Shakopee
- July 29, The Fabulous Armadillos Party Band, Shakopee

August

- August 5: The Lonesome Losers: A Tribute to Yacht Rock, Hyland Hills

September

- September 9, The Good, the Bad, and the Funky, Hyland Hills

Summer Fellowship



June “Cover Lovers” Outdoor Concerts: June 3 (Hyland Hills), June 17 (Shakopee), and June 24 (Shakopee). See page 14 for details. No registration needed.



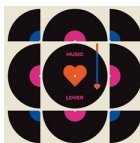
San Pablo Lutheran Church Worship/Street Festival: Sunday, June 7. Worship 11:15am-12:30pm. Street festival 1:00-4:00pm. Carpooling from Peace available. Sign up at the information kiosk.



Lantern Chorus Concert Sunday, June 14, 3:00–4:30pm at St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church. Free. Sign up at the information kiosk.



Wooden Hill Midsummer Market, Dinner, Brewery Tour: Thursday, June 18, 4:00pm. Shop local vendors, have a beverage/dinner then we’ll go on a brewery tour. All ages welcome. Sign up at the information kiosk or online.



July “Cover Lovers” Outdoor Concerts on July 8, July 15, July 22, and July 29. All in Shakopee. See page 14 for details. No registration needed.



Wine Tasting, Lunch, Concert: On Tuesday, July 7, 11:30am-3:00pm we’ll head out to Sovereign Winery on Lake Waconia. \$54/person. We’ll carpool from Peace at 10:45am. Please sign up by Friday, June 19 at the information kiosk. (Must be age 21+.)



Age 80+ Summer Luncheon on Thursday, July 30, 11:30am.



August “Cover Lovers” Outdoor Concert on August 5 at Hyland Hills. See page 14 for details. No registration needed.

Ongoing Fellowship

Yoga

Monday nights, 5:30pm. Join us for prayer, breath, movement and community. During the summer we meet at the Normandale Lake bandshell when temperatures are between 70-85 degrees and there is no rain in the forecast otherwise we will meet at Peace in the front meeting room. All levels of practice are welcome. Bring a yoga mat and a \$5 donation. Questions? Please contact Sandy McGurran at: smcgurran03@gmail.com.

Book Group

The book group meets **monthly on the 2nd Thursday at 6:45pm.** New members are welcome anytime! Contact Lori Thomson for more information.

Mahjong

Come practice your skills on **Thursdays, 6:30-8:00pm** every other week. Summer dates are **June 4, 18, July 2, 15, 30, and August 13, 27.** Bring a friend and a mahjong set if you have one.

65+ and Socially Single Group

This casual group for older singles who enjoy getting out and going places. We aim to gather on the **3rd Thursday of the month at 1:00pm.** Please contact Gerry Dooley (gerry.dooley.mn@gmail.com) or Gary Vig (gvig33@gmail.com) for summer events.

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

Peace Photo Diary



Sunday School....crafts, zaniness, and learning!



Sunday School Teacher Thank You Brunch at The Original Pancake House, May 17, 2026



Peace Quilters raffle! Mary Defries and Bev Schlink show off the colorful quilt won by Sue Larson.

\$445 was raised for The Stocking Project, Peace's Christmas gift bag initiative for women experiencing domestic violence.



First meeting of the new 2026-2027 Church Council, May 19, 2026t



Peace Choir end of year party, May 13, 2026t

New Members

This spring we have welcomed the following new members during worship: Dave and Elizabeth Linde and the McCabe family, Joshua, Tiffany, and sons, Tristan, Morgan, and Tate.

We look forward to life and ministry together with you!



David and Elizabeth Linde



Joshua and Tiffany McCabe with sons, Tristan, Morgan, and Tate

Did You Know...

Deb Engquist, Vi Engquist's daughter, commissioned Joe Passofaro circa 1990 to make the baptismal font in honor of Vi's mother, Alice Burman.

Joe is married to Deb's cousin, April. Joe and April live in Prior Lake and have their own pottery studio as a family hobby and small business. They also made the communion chalices and communion bread plates that we use each week.



—Pastor Jeff Engholm

Grief Support

Churches in Bloomington and Richfield provide education and support for adults who are grieving the death of a loved one.

The summer series will meet on **Thursdays, June 9-August 27, 2026, 4:30-6:00pm** at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church (2200 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington).

Meetings start with a 30-minute educational topic presented by guest speakers who share their own experience and professional knowledge on grief and loss.

The next hour is spent in small group conversation with the opportunity to share feelings and concerns with others who are also working through the grief process.

The information kiosk has brochures with the summer topics or visit Peace's website for more information. There is no cost to participate and no pre-registration needed. You may attend one week or all weeks.

Life Passages

Baptisms

- **Lincoln Oistad** baptized on Sunday, March 22, 2026. Lincoln's parents are TJ and Annette Oistad. Lincoln's grandparents are Robert Endly and Donna Dahlen.
- **Anthony McGill** baptized on Sunday, March 29, 2026. Anthony's parents are Ryan and Rachel McGill and his sponsors are Jacob McGill and Amanda McGill.
- **Frederick (Freddy) Mueller** baptized on Sunday, April 12. Freddy's parents are Brady and Nano Mueller and his sponsors are Craig and Marilyn Mueller.

Grieving

- **Monte and Evie Anderson** on the death of their son-in-law, David Wicker who died on March 5, 2026.
- **Joni Murphy** upon the death of her mother, Carol Lenius on Friday, April 3, 2026.

Peace Photos

Love the photos in this issue of *Partners*? Look for more photos on Peace's Facebook page (facebook.com/PLCBloomingtonMN), on the Life at Peace wall in the Parish Hall, or in the scrapbooks in the Fireside area.

- The family and friends of **Vi Engquist** who died on April 8, 2026.
- **Jeremy, Robin, Aubrianna, and Gavin Churchill** on the death of Jeremy's father, Dale Churchill on May 4, 2026.

Milestones

- **Doris Earl** who turned 100 years old on April 30, 2026. Happy Birthday, Doris!
- Birthday wishes in advance to **Lee Truhlar** who will turn 101 years old on July 4, 2026. Happy Birthday, Lee!
- **Riley Thoen** earned his PhD in Plant Biology from the University of Georgia. Riley also is a 2026 recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award for his work with undergraduate students. Riley is the son of Dave and Denise Thoen.

Our thanks to Denise Thoen for creating the beautiful, creative scrapbook pages for Peace!

If you have photos for Peace's archive, please email them to Daina Sivanich at daina.sivanich@peacebloomington.org.

partners

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On The Cover
"All Creation Sings His Praise"
Jen Norton

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.

Devotion: Ordinary Time

The Bible is filled with stories about sensational events. In Genesis 1, we read the story about how all of creation began under the mighty power of God. Just a few chapters later, we discover the story of the great flood, and how Noah built an ark that would deliver him through the raging waters. In the book of Exodus, we read the story about how God brought ten great plagues upon the people of Egypt in order to convince Pharaoh to let God's people go, after which Moses led the people in a daring escape by moving through the waters of the Red Sea.

And the stories go on. Daniel in the lion's den...David killing the giant Goliath...Joshua fighting the battle of Jericho...Those mighty stories from the Old Testament were followed by more sensational stories in the New Testament: Mary and Joseph escaping to Egypt after King Herod sent his death squads to kill the baby Jesus... the Apostle Paul being blinded

by the light of God because he was persecuting the first Christians...and, of course, Jesus rising from the grave on that first Easter morning.

But while these stories might be memorable and speak truth about the power of God, most of the stories in scripture are about ordinary people living ordinary lives, spending their days like most of us do – eating, sleeping, working, playing, worshipping. The life of a Christian isn't usually marked by noteworthy events, but by simply following in the footsteps of our Lord. And following in the footsteps of our Lord really boils down to only two things: Loving God and loving our neighbors through simple, ordinary acts of kindness lived out every day.

The hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" is a classic Lutheran hymn of the Reformation. It begins with a mighty roar: "A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious." But then in the third verse, the

truth is revealed:

*Let this world's tyrant rage;
in battle we'll engage!*

*His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!*

One little word subdues him.

One little word subdues him. One little word. That's how Psalm 46 ends, with one little word... actually, less than a word: "Be still, and know that I am God." Be still. Be quiet. Be ordinary. Because that's where the true power of God lies, not in the loud and mighty, but in the quiet and ordinary.

I'm not sure what you're looking forward to this summer—perhaps lots of traveling, lots of adventure, lots of fun. Good for you! But keep in mind that our souls are fed mostly when we are still and quiet, going about our ordinary business during this ordinary time.

—Pastor Jeff Engholm

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Sunday Worship: 9:30am



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



**Join us for summer
Sunday worship!
Sundays, 9:30am
The Gospel of Matthew**

When we gather for worship each week this summer, we will be looking at stories of Jesus found in the Gospel of Matthew, which highlights Christ's call to live with humility, mercy, and faith. As followers of Jesus, we are encouraged to build community, practice forgiveness, and embrace discipleship in our every day lives.

"Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and glorify God in heaven."
Matthew 5:16

**Stay after worship for
fellowship!**

