

partners

Peace Lutheran Church

Fall, 2022



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

Grow Together

“Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.”
Ephesians 4:15

If your house growing up was like mine, there was a spot—in my house it was the door leading to a utility room—where, as a child growing up, Nelson children’s heights were recorded. Regularly my mother or father would take the ruler and put it on top of my head, and on the door mark how high I was growing. If you think about it, I wasn’t growing in general, though; I was growing in relationship to the door frame. And I thought, the child I was, that soon my Dad would have to get a ladder to measure the full height I had reached! 6 feet maybe? It was not to be!

Yet, all of us in the Christian faith have Jesus Christ as a measure by which we trace our growth and, in God’s grace, that mark has grown. You understand that Christian faith is more than holding on to a few ideas and principles you first believed a long time ago. And—even in struggles and

maybe through those struggles—you have grown.

You have good company. We often think of St. Paul in the New Testament as fully formed, secure and stable: Mr. Know-It-All, Mr. Unmoved, Mr. Unmovable, Mr. Unmoving. But a closer look tells us that Paul was constantly growing, stretching, pushing, changing, moving, open to the Holy Spirit. So in Ephesians he speaks of “... *growing up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.*”

It was Cardinal John Henry Newman, himself an example of change and growth, who once said: “Growth is the only evidence of life.” St. Paul would agree.

Here at Peace, we have taken up Paul and Cardinal Newman’s example. Note the first word in our mission statement: “*Growing* a community that nurtures a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.” To be a Christian is to grow; to let go of something—some idea, some behavior, some conviction and take on new and life-giving ways.

That’s why I’m excited about this fall at Peace. It’s a new season of growth and opportunity. We have a chance to gather and grow together, worship together, sing together,

learn together, and strengthen each other through fellowship and service.

There are many opportunities for growth. I’m excited about a sermon series from September to mid-November called, “Great Stories of the Bible” and tying the sermon series in with Wednesday evening Bible study. Maybe you have never heard the story of Eutychus falling asleep during a long sermon and falling three floors to the ground; or never read the story of the problems that Rachel and Leah had being married to the same man; or the tale of Daniel and the mysterious hand writing on the wall. We’ll hear and study these stories and the surprising light they throw on our lives.

I’m excited about a Sunday morning Adult Education focus on hunger and food, “How We Can Feed the Future.” We’ll view and discuss presentations such as, “What We’re Getting Wrong in the Fight to End Hunger,” “How Climate Change Could Make Our Food Less Nutritious,” and “Want Kids to Learn Well? Feed them Well” and participate feeding others through Harvest Pack in November.

I’m excited about seeing children back learning and singing. Helping to partner with parents to help them and their

families grow together in Christ. I'm excited to reconnect with those who have been spread out during the pandemic. I could go on and on.

So many of us learned through this pandemic that it's easy to take our church and our life together for granted and promised ourselves not to do that again. And so, I look forward to welcoming you this fall. There is a place here at Peace for you. A place for you to get involved. A place to use your gifts. A place to connect with others. A place to dream God's dreams and trust that God can accomplish them. And.....a place to grow!

I can't wait to see you!

—Pastor Mark Nelson

Congregational Care Call on October 9

In response to Christ's grace to us, we are called to love one another. We want to extend caring, concern, and support for members of Peace. Toward that end, we are holding a "Congregational Care Call."

What is a "congregational care call"? Some time between **4:00 and 8:00pm on Sunday, October 9th**, a fellow member/Council member of Peace will contact you by

phone with the simple question, "How are you?" There will be no requests for you to do anything; this is just a phone call to hear how you're managing through your lives. We look forward to contacting you, along with all the members of Peace.

If you have any questions or comments, don't hesitate to contact me (952.944.6510).

—Pastor Mark Nelson

Seasonal Worship Guide

September

4	11	18	25
13th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	14th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	15th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	16th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am
Preacher: Pastor Joe Orner	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson
Sermon Series: Stories Jesus Told About Himself	Sermon Series: Great Stories of the Bible	Sermon Series: Great Stories of the Bible	Sermon Series: Great Stories of the Bible
Holy Communion	Holy Communion; Peace Choir	Holy Communion; Peace Choir; Blessing of Sunday School Students and Teachers	Holy Communion; Peace Choir; Bibles Presented to toddlers and 3rd Graders
Fellowship after worship	Gathering Sunday fellowship meal and fall ministry preview	Adult Education; Sunday School; Middle School Discussion Group	Adult Education; Sunday School

October

2	9	16	23	30
17th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	18th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	19th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	20th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Reformation Sunday, 9:30am
Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Joe Orner	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson
Sermon Series: Great Stories of the Bible	Sermon Series: Great Stories of the Bible	Sermon Series: Great Stories of the Bible	Sermon Series: Great Stories of the Bible	Sermon Series: Great Stories of the Bible
Holy Communion; Alleluia Choir	Holy Communion; Sunday School Singers	Holy Communion; Rite of Membership (New Members)	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
Adult Education; Sunday School	Adult Education; Sunday School; Middle School Discussion Group	Adult Education; Sunday School	Adult Education; Sunday School	Adult Education; Sunday School

November

6	13	20	27
All Saints Sunday, 9:30am	23rd Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Christ the King, 9:30am	First Sunday in Advent, 9:30am
Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Joe Orner	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson
Sermon Series: Great Stories of the Bible	Sermon Series: On Giving Thanks	Sermon Series: On Giving Thanks	
Holy Communion	Holy Communion; Sunday School Singers; Time & Talents	Holy Communion; Alleluia Choir; Consecration Sunday	Lighting of the First Advent Candle; Holy Communion
Adult Education; Sunday School	Harvest Pack; Middle School Discussion Group; Sunday School (11:00am)	Meal of Consecration and Pie Fest following worship; Sunday School (11:00am)	Adult Education; Sunday School

Fall Sermon Series

Great Stories of the Bible: September 11-November 6

On Giving Thanks: November 13-20

"Tell me a story."

We are never too young or too old for a good story! And that is basically what the Bible is. It is a series of stories, whether they are the stories like the ones in Genesis, or stories about Israel's history, or the Gospels themselves. They are all recounting things that happened, or that could have happened, or that were imagined to have happened, in ways that get to the very heart of God and our lives that could not be conveyed in any other way but a story.

Think about Jesus himself. Jesus who said few things to his disciples that weren't stories or parables. He didn't teach the way that few people are likely to teach today. He taught simply by telling very common, very simple stories.

In this sermon series, "Great Stories of the Bible," we will do the same. We will tell just a few of the many stories in the Bible; some familiar and some not; some we have heard as children but now might hear differently as grown-ups; some that are funny and others that are frightening. All of them are different variations of the two most important stories: God's

story and our own. The story of God who loved the world, made the world and made us in God's image. Join us for some great stories!

—Pastor Mark Nelson

Sermon Series Schedule **(as of August 10, 2022)**

September 11, 2022

- Sermon: "Lucky: The Story of Eutychus"
- Texts: Acts 20:7-12
- Preacher: Mark Nelson

September 18, 2022

- Sermon: "The Trouble with Two Spouses: The Story of Rachel and Leah"
- Text: Genesis 29:15-20
- Preacher: Mark Nelson

September 25, 2022

- Sermon: "Things that Shine: The Story of Israel at the Foot of Mount Sinai"
- Text: Exodus 32:1-14
- Preacher: Mark Nelson

October 2, 2022

- Sermon: "The Writing on the Wall: The Story of Daniel and King Belshazzar"
- Text: Daniel 5:1-17, 23-30
- Preacher: Mark Nelson

October 9, 2022

- Sermon: "Living with Life's Incompleteness: The Story of Moses on Mount Pisgah"
- Text: Deuteronomy 34:1-12
- Preacher: Mark Nelson

October 16, 2022

- Sermon: "Bushes Burning: the Story of Moses on Holy Ground"
- Text: Exodus 3:1-15
- Preacher: Joe Orner

October 23, 2022

- Sermon: "Weak or Strong? The Story of Samson"
- Text: Judges 16:23-31; Luke 17:3-6
- Preacher: Mark Nelson

October 30, 2022

- Sermon: "Full of Grace and Truth: The Story of Jesus"
- Text: John 8:31-36
- Preacher: Mark Nelson

November 6, 2022

- Sermon: "The Best Little Harlot's House in Jericho: The Story of Rahab"
- Text: Joshua 2:1-24; Hebrews 11
- Preacher: Mark Nelson

November 13, 2022 (On Giving Thanks: Time and Talent Sunday)

- Sermon: "On Giving Thanks for Grace and Gifts"
- Text: Romans 12:18; 1 Peter 4:7-11
- Preacher: Joe Orner

November 20, 2022 (On Giving Thanks: Consecration Sunday)

- Sermon: "On Giving Thanks"
- Text: Luke 17:11-19
- Preacher: Mark Nelson

Sunday Adult Education

September 11-November 20, 10:45-11:45am

September 11

Gathering Sunday Meal and a preview of fall ministry at Peace.

September 18/25

“The Road to Resilience” and “Learning to Live: Five Practices for Feeling More Alive”—Catherine Duncan

The pandemic has gone on and on. How do we manage, and even thrive in this midst of COVID and other stresses? Catherine Duncan will explore stress, health and the healing benefits of truly attending to your body, mind and heart.

Catherine has a Master of Arts in Theology and Spiritual Direction and is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, as well as a Board-certified chaplain and author.

October 2/9/16

“How We Can Feed the Future”
In our ministry at Peace, the theme of food and hunger has always had a primary place. Over many years, our shared ministry with VEAP, Loaves & Fishes, ELCA World Hunger, Harvest Pack, Feed My Starving Children, St. Andrew’s Church in Cairo, Egypt, and Every Meal (formerly Sheridan Story) among others has recognized the challenge of hunger in our city and throughout the world and regularly and generously

responded.

This year presents a special challenge. With fast-moving climate change and more frequent conflicts, millions of people are increasingly left without daily bread to sustain their lives. With that in mind, the Service & Mission Committee is encouraging deep study into hunger and food with the vision where everyone has access to safe, healthy, and nutritious food—especially those who need it most. In this series, we will learn and discuss some things about hunger and food through various speakers and their TED Talks; concise looks the many facets of this important issue. Talks such as:

- “What We’re Getting Wrong in the Fight to End Hunger”
- “How Climate Change Could Make Our Food Less Nutritious”
- “Want Kids to Learn Well? Feed them Well”
- “A Global Food Crisis May Be Less Than a Decade Away”
- “Ending Hunger Now”
- “The Future of the Food Ecosystem....and the Power of Your Plate”
- “Climate Change Is Becoming a Problem You Can Taste
- “Obesity + Hunger=1 Global Food Issue”

October 23/30/November 6

“Caring for One Another in the Name of Christ”

As Christians, what does it mean to care for others in the name of Christ? In this 3-part session, we’ll begin with the question, “What do I say to someone who is suffering?” We’ll view the TED Talk, *“Everything Happens for a Reason....And Other Lies I’ve Loved”* from Duke Divinity School professor, Kate Bowler. After being diagnosed with stage IV cancer at age 35, she wrote a book with the same name, talking about how we live and cope with pain and suffering and help others do the same.

We’ll continue with learning about other caring skills. One in particular and one which is the most basic of caring gestures: listening. In the book of Proverbs, the writer repeatedly instructs students to “hear” their words, the deliberate process of paying attention to what is being said with the intent to obey or take action. We’ll discuss on what it means to listen well.

November 13

No Adult Education—Harvest Pack

November 20

No Adult Education—Consecration Sunday Meal

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

September 14-November 16, 6:00-7:00pm

Alongside our sermon series this fall, "Great Stories of the Bible,"

(September 11-November 6) we will both preview and review the Biblical stories that are the

basis for each Sunday's message. This study will be an opportunity to study the given text, discuss what the preacher might say about it, and then on the following Wednesday review together what was preached.

We will also look at our own stories of faith. Stories are basic to the faith because I believe our faith comes from the story that each one of us has lived in this world, not just from what we heard in church. Everyone's life has a story and a plot. Things happened to us that, at the time, seemed to have had very little significance were, looking back, milestones in the plot that is our life.

We will conclude the last two Wednesdays of this study (November 9th and 16th) with a few other "great" and memorable Bible stories; but stories that are also frightening. The terrific preacher, Barbara Brown Taylor, wrote years ago of what she labeled as "Texts of



Terror" in the Bible; Bible stories like Abraham being asked to sacrifice his son, Isaac; stories that tell of violence, judgment, rejection; stories that have one asking, "This is in the

Bible" or "This is *our* God?" We'll look at some of those stories, too. Come join us for all or any of the sessions!

—Pastor Mark Nelson

Bible Study Schedule

September 14

"Lucky: The Story of Eutychus" from Acts 20:7-12 and "The Trouble with Two Spouses: The Story of Rachel and Leah".

September 21

"The Trouble with Two Spouses: The Story of Rachel and Leah from Genesis 29:15-20 and "Things that Shine: The Story of Israel at the Foot of Mt. Sinai" from Exodus 32:1-14.

September 28

"Things that Shine: The Story of Israel at the Foot of Mt. Sinai" from Exodus 32:1-14 and "Weak or Strong?: The Story of Samson" from Judges 16: 23-31.

October 5

Review "The Writing on the Wall: The Story of Daniel and King

Belshazzar" and preview "Full of Grace and Truth: The Story of Jesus" (John 8:31-36).

October 12

"Living with Life's Incompleteness: The Story of Moses on Mt. Pisgah" from Deuteronomy 34:1-12 and "The Writing on the Wall: The Story of Daniel and King Belshazzar" from Daniel 5:1-17, 23-30.

October 19

No Bible Study

October 26

"Weak or Strong?: The Story of Samson" from Judges 16: 23-31 and "Living with Life's Incompleteness: The Story of Moses on Mt. Pisgah" from Deuteronomy 34:1-12.

November 2

Review "Full of Grace and Truth: The Story of Jesus" and preview "The Best Little Harlot's House in Jericho: The Story of Rahab" (Joshua 2:1-24).

November 9

"Texts of Terror: Part 1".

November 16

"Texts of Terror: Part 2".

Children, Youth and Family

Come and Grow with us this fall!

One thing I love about Peace is that there are so many opportunities to grow—to grow in faith, to grow in community, to grow as a family and as an individual, to grow in age and in stature.



It's been beautiful to see new people and families join Peace in the last year, as well as to see many familiar faces return after time away due to the pandemic. A familiar theme shined through: it's great to be

together. That feeling of togetherness is the work of the Holy Spirit. It's the feeling that you're a part of something greater than yourself. That you don't have to be lonely anymore. That there are people and a God who will care for you and support you through all of life's ups and downs.

And as a congregation, we grow together in worship, word, and song; through our many education opportunities for adults and children alike; through outreach events like

Trunk or Trunk and service events like Harvest Pack; and even through a donut or cup of coffee shared during fellowship time.

So wherever you'd like to come and grow this fall, I challenge and encourage you to commit to planting yourself and your family into Peace ministries—so that we can build up our faith and our congregation, and so that we can come and go out into our communities with full cups to love and serve our neighbors.

Grace and Peace,

—Pastor Joe Orner

Summer 2022 Review

Summer was full of wonderful memories. In June we hosted Vacation Bible School for nearly 60 children from Peace and Community of the Cross. Under the theme, "Monumental," we learned about the story of Joseph and how we can "Celebrate God's Greatness" each and every day.

The summer included three trips to Camp Wapogasset in Amery, Wisconsin. Our 1-3 graders attended Seeds Camp, our 4-8 graders attended Youth Camp, and seven families enjoyed a weekend Family Camp. We swam, played tons of fun games, sang camp songs around the

fire, and grew together in our faith. The theme for the summer was "Take Hold," which was inspired by John 16:33—"I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble, but take hold! I have conquered the world." In the midst of a crazy world, we can all take hold of God's promises for us.

Unfortunately we had to cancel our high school mission trip to Chicago due to COVID-19 which was heartbreaking. The funds we raised earlier this year will be put towards future trips. Details on next summer's trip

will be available later this school year, and in 2024 we will head to New Orleans for the next ELCA National Youth Gathering.

Other summer highlights were Trivia Night in July, mini golf and ice cream with middle/high school students, and a magician who mystified all the VBS kids and families. Throughout the summer, in both the joys and the challenges, it was clear that God was at work, helping us all to grow in faith and in community.

—Pastor Joe Orner

Sunday School Preview

Sunday School is one of our best tools for growth and spiritual development in our youngest generation of Peace-goers. Through Sunday School, we're able to fulfill the promises we make as a community in baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to bring them the Word of God and the Holy Supper, to teach them the Lord's Prayer, and 10

Commandments, to place in their hands the Holy Scriptures, and to nurture them in faith and prayer. Throughout the year, the children will experience and better understand God's love, as we build and grow a firm foundation for their faith.

—Pastor Joe Orner

Confirmation Preview

What does it mean to be a Christian? Are there any specific things that are essential for Christian living? How do I live out my faith in daily life?

These are questions that Christians have wondered together for centuries. And though the complete answers and methods have changed over time, about 500 years ago Martin Luther put together a list of "Christian essentials" he called the "Catechism." In it, he

talked about the Lord's Prayer, the 10 Commandments, the Apostle's Creed, baptism, and communion.

Throughout the year, we'll discuss these topics in depth, while adding some modern day additions of our own. We'll also engage in service projects, go on a World Religions Retreat, and more, as we grow in community and in faith.

—Pastor Joe Orner

Sunday School Teachers

Are you interested in investing in the younger generations of Peace?

We are in need of 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 commit to teaching at least 2 Sundays per month, and there will be at least 3 leaders assigned to each room to provide greater flexibility and support. Have a busy schedule? We also need substitutes to serve as needed, when it works for you.

If interested, please contact Pastor Joe at pastor.joe@peacebloomington.org.

Sunday School, Confirmation, and High School Youth Activity Registration

Activity registration for the 2022/2023 school year is open! Please register online—there is a link in the Thursday CYF Blast, in Pastor Mark's Friday e-note, and on Peace's website. Paper registration forms are available in the narthex if needed.

High School Preview

Our young people are so busy. They have school, band, sports, theater, jobs, a social life, and more! The list never seems to end. Yet in the midst of our crazy lives, God offers us purpose within the church. God calls us into belonging, into service, and into connection, which is exactly what your students will find when engaging in Peace ministries.

Twice per month, we'll gather together as God's people as we discuss living out our faith in daily life, have fun, and create a

welcoming and affirming culture in our community—because everyone belongs here. God calls us to serve our neighbors, so some of our gatherings will be at local service partners and doing projects that create joy for others. And your students will also find connection—to God and one another—as we grow a community that nurtures a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

—*Pastor Joe Orner*

High School Hangout Schedule

September 14, 28

October 12, 26

November 9, 30

December 14

Parenting Teens Group

Are you entering or have you been in the sometimes-scary season of parenting teenagers? Are you feeling like you could use some community and support as you navigate all of the twists, turns, and transitions of the teenage years?

Join other Peace parents for honest and engaging discussions, a safe space to process challenges, and a caring place to celebrate the joys.

This group will meet on Wednesdays, September 14, 28, October 12, 26 from 7:45-

8:30pm at Peace. All parents are welcome!

For more information and to sign up, please contact Pastor Joe at pastor.joe@peacebloomington.org.

Trunk or Treat Invitation

This October we will host our 3rd annual Trunk or Treat! This event combines the fun of trick or treating with the safety of familiar faces and the Peace parking lot. Kids travel from car to car collecting candy, and people decorate their trunks and pass out candy. Last year

we welcomed nearly 200 kids, many of whom did not belong to Peace. It was a great community event!

In order to provide the best experience and hospitality possible, we need your help. Please consider coming and hosting a trunk, even if

(especially if!) you don't have younger kids. We will have prizes for the best costumes and the best trunks, and we expect this to be one of our biggest outreach events of the year.

—*Pastor Joe Orner*

Service & Mission Committee News

Harvest Pack



Harvest Pack has a simple mission: healthy food on every table.

Harvest Pack is a non-profit organization that was founded in 2012. They address food insecurity through meal packing events then distribute that food to local communities. Since 2018, our Parish Hall has been transformed annually into a packing site for members of all ages to participate as we strive to pack 10,000 oatmeal meals in about 2 hours which are then distributed to residents in Bloomington.

This fall, our Harvest Pack is set for Sunday, November 13 starting at 10:30am. We'll need 70+ people to pack these meals and there is a job everyone from affixing labels, to adding ingredients, to sealing bags to boxing up meals. It's fun, fast paced, and great for everyone to come together on a big project like this!

As the time gets closer, look for sign up sheets in the narthex!

VEAP Collection Continues



We received an update from VEAP (Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People) regarding

their Emergency Summer Food Campaign. Great news! Due to the response of many (including Peace) donations are up an additional 20,000 pounds of food compared to this time last year! We are very grateful for everyone's help and truly couldn't do it without every single one of our supporters.

The need continues to be high in Bloomington, Richfield, Edina, and south Minneapolis, and our "most wanted/most needed" items continue to be in short supply. As a result, we have expanded the "most wanted items" list:

- Especially needed: laundry detergent, toothpaste and toothbrushes, dish soap, paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, tissues), diapers in sizes 5-7, baby wipes, and, formula.
- Still needed: shampoo, liquid hand soap, personal care items, dog and cat food.
- Or, make a check out to Peace Lutheran Church and write "VEAP" in the memo line.

Please drop off your donations in the VEAP bin in the narthex on Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings, or anytime during the work week.

As you may know, VEAP began as a ministry founded by Bloomington churches. It has grown significantly and currently is a basic needs and social services organization whose programs promote access to healthy foods, stable housing and other supportive services. Whether the hardship is from a disability, job transition, or the financial and physical stresses of aging, VEAP has been helping our neighbors in need for 45 years.

Thank you for your part in this life-giving ministry!

—Pastor Mark Nelson

Music Notes with Patti Arntz

The Peace Choir Looks Ahead to the Fall

Things are looking up for the Peace Choir this fall. As Lent, Easter and Spring unfolded, the Peace Choir was back singing glorious hymns with Bruce Hudson at the helm. It felt so good to be singing together again. Sometimes I stop singing during the hymns and just listen. Peace is such a musical congregation, full of strong singers.

With fall approaching, we would love to have more singers involved with the Peace Choir. Those who sang with us for the Twins game know how wonderful it is to sing with a large choir. The Peace Choir will be leading services on many Sundays throughout the year. **All are welcome to join us!**

Looking ahead to September, our rehearsals will be on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm, starting on September 7th. The Peace Choir is scheduled to sing on September 11, 18 and 25.

All current Peace Choir members as well as those who are interested in singing this fall, are invited to a potluck Choir Season Kick-Off at my house on Wednesday evening, August 31, 6:00pm. Come and join us as we gather to kick-off the coming fall season and all of its musical opportunities. Look for the sign up sheet at the information kiosk or contact Daina Sivanich in the church office for more details.

I hope to see you soon!

—Patti Arntz, Director of Music



Email me at patti.arntz@peacebloomington.org

A New Children's Choir for Grades 2-5

There is nothing better than the sound of children singing together. Peace is starting a children's choir, Alleluia Choir, and would like to invite all 2nd through 5th graders to be a part of this musical journey.

You don't have to be a great singer to join the Alleluia Choir, just a desire to sing. Part of being in a children's choir is developing a life-long love of singing. Along with the joy of

singing with others, we will work on beautiful tone, phrasing, musical expression and rhythm. The singers in the Alleluia Choir will also learn leadership skills by providing support to the Sunday School Singers.

Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays from 4:45-5:30pm starting September 14. To register your child/ren, complete a registration form found at the information kiosk and drop it off

in the church office.

I look forward to working with Peace's children whether it is with the Alleluia Choir or the Sunday School Singers. Come give us a try, rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 14th and our first Singing Sunday will be October 2nd.

—Patti Arntz

The Peace Choir Sings for the Minnesota Twins

On Sunday, July 17th, the Peace Choir and friends, a group 46 strong, walked onto Target Field totally prepared to sing the National Anthem for the Minnesota Twins. Some singers were excited, some were nervous, but all were ready to sing! Leading up to the big event, the singers rehearsed a few times after church on Sundays in June, practiced with a rehearsal tape and sang along with a video presented by the Armstrong High School Chamber Singers.

All the singers met the day before at Peace. The Parish Hall was transformed into a rehearsal venue, the tables were cleared and chairs were set up in choir formation. The Peace Choir members welcomed our extra singers. Some of the “choir friends” sing with Patti in Singers in Accord, some were family and some colleagues. Family members of Peace Choir members also joined us. With

music being our common language, the conversations were abundant.

Our first run through was beautiful with a good balance between all 8 vocal parts. After working on some of the fine details, we headed out to the parking lot to get a feel for singing outdoors.

Tickets and Peace polo shirts in hand, everyone was excited about our upcoming event the next day.

We met early at Target Field to enter as a group. We were escorted to the waiting area, ran through the anthem a few times and then headed out onto the field. The tricky part of singing the National Anthem is “getting the pitch” (so to speak). The musical pitch, that is. The stadium has a constant stream of music and most of the time it is not in the same

key that we are using. Those with pitch pipes and perfect pitch pass our starting note along to the others, while battling the different keys of the stadium music. Suddenly the audio engineer in charge gives the cue and away we go. It really is a glorious sound as we sing, almost no delay and then it’s over. The fans cheer, especially the Peace members in Section 313 and up we go to our seats.

Our glow from this amazing experience overshadowed the actual game. (The Twins lost 11-0 against the Chicago White Sox. They were only able to get one hit the entire game.) However, it was still a great time!

Thanks, Peace Choir and friends - you are amazing.

—Patti Arntz



Fall Fellowship

For Everyone

Date/Time	Event	Description
Tuesdays, August 30, September 6, 13, 20, 27, October 4	Peace Men's Fall Softball	The boys of summer carry on with fall ball! Come join them Tuesday nights at Dred Scott. Contact Ben Hanson for more information.
Sunday, September 11, 10:30am	Gathering Sunday Fellowship Meal and Fall Ministry Preview	Connect with your Peace family after the summer!
Saturday, November 5, 6:30pm	"Name That Tune" Trivia Night	Test your musical knowledge from the 60's through the 90's (yes, you can still remember!) with fellow members. There will be prizes (no new cars). Bring an hors d'oeuvre to share and your own beverage (wine, beer, and/or soda). You can sign up in the Narthex kiosk later this fall, call the church office (952.944.6510) to be added to the list, or just come. Join us for a fun night!
Saturday, October 29, 3:30pm	Trunk or Treat	Kids walk from car to car collecting candy, and people decorate their trunks and pass out candy. We need your help—please consider coming and hosting a trunk, even if (especially if!) you don't have younger kids. We will have prizes for the best costumes and the best trunks. This is one of our biggest outreach events of the year.
Sunday, November 20, 10:30am	Stewardship Meal and Pie Fest	Celebrate your pledge to support Peace and its ministries with a stewardship meal and pie fest!

For Older Adults

Date/Time	Event	Description
Thursday, September 29, Brunch 11:00am; Performance 1:00pm	Church Basement Ladies "Plowin' Thru" performance	The year is 1975 and your favorite characters are back! Come along as the ladies don their polyester pantsuits and sing, dance and laugh their way through this hilarious and touching new musical. The tickets are \$34-\$42 or if we have a group of 10 or more, as low at \$28. Please sign up at the information kiosk to help us plan.
Thursday, October 27, 11:30am	Harvest Lunch and Bloomingtones Concert	Join us for a fall lunch followed by a Bloomingtones concert. (You might even know some of the singers as several are Peace members!)

Fall Fellowship, continued

For Families

Date/Time	Event	Description
Saturday, September 17, 10:30am	March in the Bloomington Heritage Days Parade	Come represent Peace in the Heritage Days Parade! We hand out water bottles and candy! Look for a sign up sheet at the information kiosk.
Saturday, October 29, 3:30-4:30pm	Trunk or Treat	Kids walk from car to car collecting candy, and people decorate their trunks and pass out candy. Please consider hosting a trunk and certainly bring your children. We will have prizes for the best costumes and the best trunks.
Friday, November 18, 7:00pm	Game Night	Come join Peace members and families for a game night at Peace! We will enjoy popcorn while playing board games, card games or Dominoes. If you have a favorite game, bring it along. Look for the sign up sheet at the information kiosk later this fall.

For 20 & 30 Somethings

Date/Time	Event	Description
Tuesday, September 13, 7:00pm	Trivia Night at Town Hall Station in Edina	20 & 30 Somethings, join us for Trivia Night at Town Hall Station (4500 Valley View Rd, Edina). Please RSVP to Pastor Joe.
Sunday, October 9, 2:00pm	Happy Hour	Join us as we gather for conversation and laughs while we check out the brews at Fat Pants Brewing Company (8335 Crystal View Rd, Eden Prairie). RSVP to Pastor Joe.
Sunday, November 13	Worship, Harvest Pack, then Lunch	We'll start with worship at 9:30, stay on to pack meals for Harvest Pack at Peace at 10:30am. Once packing is done, we'll head over to Wooden Hill Brewing to have lunch. RSVP to Pastor Joe.

An Interview with Virginia Johnson

On an August morning, Pastor Mark Nelson and Daina Sivanich met with Peace's oldest member, Virginia Johnson who will turn 102 years old on September 5. Here is just a bit about Virginia and those 101+ years.



In November 1942, Virginia met the handsome, blonde Odell "Swede" Johnson at a dance with live music at her business school. A few months later in January, she saw Odell again and "he remembered me" beginning their courtship.

Ruth Virginia Mathiasen was born in 1920 in Onawa, Iowa. Her mother was Norwegian and her father immigrated from Denmark in 1911. Virginia has Danish teak furniture throughout her home honoring her heritage.

Virginia had a good childhood playing outdoors with neighborhood friends and her younger brother Vernon until the sun set and in high school, enjoyed playing clarinet in the marching band. She had a Lutheran background growing up including Sunday School, church choir, and a high school youth group.

On her 18th birthday in 1938, Virginia started her post-high school education at a business school in Des Moines taking classes such as shorthand, typing, English to name a few. She held jobs during this time to earn money to help offset education costs earning about \$15/week.

Four years after meeting, their wedding was set for December 13, 1942. By that time Odell was in the Air Corps (now called the Air Force) based in Topeka, KS. On December 12, Virginia arrived in Topeka and upon checking in to the Jayhawk Motel, learned that a B24 with Odell on board had lost fuel in all three engines and had made an emergency landing in a corn field. Odell was hospitalized with cuts and bruises and a broken leg. But the wedding was not to be delayed! The hospital chaplain contacted a local Lutheran pastor and Virginia and Odell were married at the hospital on December 13.

After World War II, Odell parlayed his flying experience into a 31 year career with Eastern Airlines. This took him, Virginia, and their daughter, Peggy, to Atlanta; Miami Springs, FL; and Barrington, IL. A pastor once told them, "when you move, find yourself a

church home." And that's just what Odell and Virginia did in each city in which they lived. Virginia taught Sunday School (4th, 7th and 8th Grades), a Children of the Church group, Bible school, and Luther League for youth post-confirmation.

Their daughter Peggy went to St. Olaf and later worked at the U of M in the Twin Cities. To be closer to Peggy, Virginia and Odell decided to move to Minnesota.

When asked, what does your faith mean to you, Virginia succinctly stated, "My Christian faith holds me together."

When asked what peace means to Virginia, she quoted a verse from Ephesians 4:5-6—⁵*One Lord, one faith, one baptism,* ⁶*one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.*

Advice that she would share give a teenager? Virginia says, stay firm in your faith and your commitment at confirmation.

And life advice for us, "Like to remember, but don't live in the past."

Sage wisdom from our resident centenarian.

Peace be with you, Virginia!

—Daina Sivanich

New Member Orientation

Peace welcomes new members!

On Sunday, October 2 at 11:45am we will host an orientation session. It's a great way to learn more about Peace, its resources, and meet other new members. New members will be received in worship two weeks later on Sunday, October 16. We strongly encourage you to attend both the orientation and the worship service.

Please call the church office at 952.944.6510 to register for orientation.

Church Life

Baptisms

- **Emilia Barnett Talbott** baptized on June 26, 2022. Emilia is the daughter of Sam and Sarah Talbott and granddaughter of Bob and Kim Barnett. Emilia's sponsors are John and Katie Thompson.
- **Bergen Kathy Johnson** baptized on July 17, 2022. Bergen is the daughter of Kevin Johnson and Courtney Farland-Johnson. Bergen's sponsors are Brin Bailey and Michael and April Johnson.

Grieving

- **Beth Maland, Logan and Kari Rogers and family** upon the death of Ann Maland.
- **Dave and Sally Sawyer** upon the death of Sally's sister, Donna Howard.
- **Mary Ann White** upon the death of her husband, Jim White.

partners

Fall 2022

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Submissions

Do you have an idea for a story or would love to write? Contact our Managing Editor with your submission, but please keep in mind the following guidelines: (a) Your article will be reviewed by the editorial 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.

Stewardship 2022

“Give Thanks”

When I was young and somebody gave me a gift and one of my parents was standing there, they would often say (and I bet they said this to many of you), “Say *thank you*.” There was a sense that when given gifts, there was something missing and incomplete if we didn’t say “*thank you*” in response.

I think that was Jesus’ point when, after ten sick people were healed, only one of them

returned to thank him. I imagine if someone had said to the other nine something about their lack of gratitude, I’m guessing they would have been quick to respond with like, “*What?!? We’re not ungrateful, we are so grateful, our hearts are filled with gratitude.*” But they didn’t express that gratitude. Being grateful is an emotion we can all relate to. But gratitude is not just an attitude, it’s something that needs to be expressed.

This fall’s stewardship effort will focus on the theme, “Give Thanks.” On both Sunday, November 13th and Sunday, November 20th, we will be given an opportunity to respond with thanks to all the gifts God has given our congregation and its ministry with our gifts/talents and our financial support. Let’s be among those who return to God.....with gratitude!

—Pastor Mark Nelson

Electronic Giving

[Click here to give online.](#)

There are many ways to give to Peace and it’s ministries; from writing a check to stock donations to electronic giving. The options are also expanding!

Soon we will have a “text-to-give” option for those who do not carry checks or credit cards. A letter will be mailed to households that will outline the many way to give and provide details. Look for that in your mail and as a link on the website.

Thank you all so much for your faithful giving to Peace!

—Lori Thomson

Did You Know...

Did you know...that there are 10 members on the Children, Youth and Family Committee? This group meets approximately six times each year. Members are Ryan Byers, Jeremy Churchill, Emily Hanson, Parker Kennedy, Robin Kennedy, Katie Loeffler, Jason Losinski, Emily Sidhom, Angela Tschida, and Pastor Joe Orner. The CYF Committee thanks outgoing members Robin Churchill and Holly Rich.

Devotion: *A Hopeful Future*

“In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...and so your faith and hope are in God.”

1 Peter 1:3, 21

Over these last couple of months, I’ve been thinking a lot about what a “post-Covid” Peace Lutheran Church may look like. While I do realize that the pandemic is not completely behind us, we are in a different place than we were a year ago, let alone two years ago. We’ve come a long way, been through a lot, and also learned a lot.

Here's one thing I've learned: the cross and resurrection of Christ speak powerfully to our situation. Jesus Christ still saves! His is a “*living*

hope” not a dead one. Through weakness and losses of all sorts, our lives are still renewed by Christ’s Spirit. While there certainly will be challenges ahead, we are confident that the future is in God’s good hands and trust the promise that God will continue to give us a future with hope.

For this reason, this prayer continues to summarize our confidence that the Holy Spirit continues to be a work in us and through us, always for the good of God’s people and for the life of the world God so loves. I invite you to pray it often: *“Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”*

God’s grace and peace to you all!

—*Pastor Mark Nelson*

Staff and Contact Information

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Sunday Worship: 9:30am



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



Join us for Gathering
Sunday, September 11!

Worship, 9:30am

Fellowship Meal and fall
ministry preview
following worship

Education Hour Begins on Sunday, September 18 at
10:45am

Sunday School, Adult Education, Middle School Discussion
Group