

partners

Peace Lutheran Church

Summer, 2023



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

from the senior pastor

Off the Treadmill

Summer is here and, for many of you, this season is a traditional time away from hard work; some weekends and weeks of “going up to the lake,” or heading out to some new place you’ve never been nor seen. Recently, I heard once again the French criticism of the North American culture of work. Something like, “Americans live to work; the French work to live.” It’s a reminder, as we begin these summer months of the importance of times to both rest and remember.

Rest from work is important. In 1818, a civil engineer named William Cubitt wanted to do something about a social problem. Prisons, he discovered, were not places for minimizing crime, but for improving it. Younger offenders were mixing with the more experienced and came out of prison better skilled—at crime! It occurred to Cubitt that he had skills that could put prisoners to work in ways that could train them in useful

labor, decrease social interaction, and better prepare them for life beyond prison.

The son of a miller, he invented the “treadwheel,” or treadmill; a massive paddle wheel set beside a platform where prisoners could be positioned to step on an endless staircase that rose up before them as the wheel turned. Sometimes the wheel they turned ground corn or pumped water, but in many prisons the treadmill did nothing but keep the men walking for 6-10 hours a day. They milled air! Walls between the men on the treadmill lessened conversation. Loneliness and monotony became the worst results of time on the treadmill. Its use was discontinued by the turn of the century, when society judged it a form of torture to set men to work that had no meaning and allowed no human connection.

Today, the treadmill idea still applies. When we say we want to “get off the treadmill,” we

are saying we want lives that are meaningful. We feel trapped in activities that are monotonous and carry little meaning or purpose. Summer gives us opportunity to step back to rest.

And also to remember. Our work is important; absolutely and for a lot of good reasons! But it’s not all we are. We belong to God in Jesus Christ. We are loved not for what we do but for who and whose we are!

So slow down a bit. Rest and remember. As Martin Luther said to Philip Melanchthon, “Philip, let’s go fishing. Today we can leave the governance of the universe to God.”

—Pastor Mark Nelson



Two Summer Sermon Series Announced

The Apostles' Creed: A Vocabulary for Faith

June 11, 18, 25

The Apostles' Creed—"I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord." Many of you have heard it. Maybe most of you. It's a creed universally acknowledged by all Christian churches as a fundamental creed. It's a summary of Christian teaching that was actually developed by the earliest church. It's a summary of the essence of what the Bible teaches and the essence

of Christian teaching, the essence you have to subscribe to in order to connect to God and be a Christian. If you want to be baptized, they would say, "Do you believe ...?" and this is what you said. "Yes, I believe," and the Apostles' Creed was a summary.

What we are going to do in June is take the three main sections of the creed and we're going to look at each section and hear once again what they tell us about God. Those are

important words. Why is it so important to know them? We live in a time in which people are seeking spiritual things but we need a vocabulary to help us. The Apostles' Creed is just the thing!

—Pastor Mark Nelson

- June 11: *"I Believe in God"*
- June 18: *"I Believe in Jesus Christ"*
- June 25: *"I Believe in the Holy Spirit"*

The Life and Ministry of the Apostle Paul

July 2 - August 13

Simply put, there would be no Peace Lutheran Church were it not for the Apostle Paul. Paul says many things that make one cringe (about women, marriage, slavery) that send me hurrying to find out, "What did Paul *mean*?" Even so, we still wouldn't be here were it not for him. At a time when the church was fighting for its life, Paul presents Jesus Christ in all of Christ's present, universal, daily glory. He managed to keep the first Christians focused on the wonder of

God's grace in Christ. He kept quarreling Christians together in the church and, whenever there has been new vitality in the church, the rediscovering of Paul's discoveries has often been behind them. In July and August, we will take a look at the life and ministry of Paul, beginning with how Church Enemy Number One changed and became Paul, the great missionary to the Gentiles—*us*—and go from there.

—Pastor Mark Nelson

- July 2: *"When God Interrupts Your Life"*
- July 9: *"When God Interrupts the Church"*
- July 16: *"Good Failure"*
- July 23: *"Taking Your Time"*
- July 30: *"Leaning on Others"*
- August 13: *"Ending Well"*



Seasonal Worship Guide

June

4	11	18	25
The Holy Trinity, 9:30am	Second Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Third Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am
Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson
The Apostles' Creed Sermon Series			
Message: "The Big Picture"	Message: "I Believe in God"	Message: "I Believe in Jesus Christ"	Message: "I Believe in the Holy Spirit"
Peace Choir; Holy Communion; Avery Elling Baptism	Peace Choir; Holy Communion	Peace Choir; Holy Communion	Holy Communion
Sundae Sunday—Ice Cream for all!	Fellowship	Fellowship	Fellowship

July

2	9	16	23	30
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am
Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson
The Life and Ministry of Apostle Paul Sermon Series				
Message: "When God Interrupts Your Life"	Message: "When God Interrupts The Church"	Message: "Good Failure"	Message: "Taking Your Time"	Message: "Leaning on Others"
Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion; Kai Thomson Baptism
Fellowship	Fellowship	Fellowship	Fellowship	Fellowship

Seasonal Worship Guide

August

6	13	20	27
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am
Preacher: Guest Pastor	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Joe Orner	Preacher: Pastor Joe Orner
	The Life and Ministry of Apostle Paul Sermon Series		
Message: To be announced	Message: "Ending Well"	To be announced	To be announced
Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
Fellowship	Fellowship	Fellowship	Fellowship

September

3
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am
Preacher: Pastor Joe Orner
To be announced
Holy Communion
Fellowship

Save the Date!
Gathering Sunday will be
Sunday, September 10.



Presenting...Peace's New Piano

Five years ago, before the pandemic, we discussed the need for a new sanctuary piano: what was possible? I spoke



to Sue Freeman-Dopp, piano specialist at Schmitt's Music, Edina. After several discussions and one trip to the showroom to play some of their available instruments, Sue came to Peace and gave the sanctuary and piano the once-over. Her professional opinion: the Kawai piano was too big for the size of the room and a smaller, higher-quality instrument should serve our purposes well.

I was in complete agreement. Suggesting a Steinway, I knew firsthand that a well-maintained Steinway would last decades. Having played Steinways (built in the early 1900s) from high school into college, Steinway pianos, when properly maintained, are built not just to endure, but built to outperform all other builds. A Steinway piano is not merely a personal or artistic choice, it is a practical choice.

Five years ago, it was clear that a new sanctuary piano was not a reasonable possibility. The old Kawai was a challenge to play and went out of tune quickly. Years of heavy use

rendered it somewhat unmanageable. I was frequently told that the piano was "too loud" for the choir and children singing but the only way to make half of the notes speak was to play heavily, which resulted in a rather harsh tone. Outside groups with pianists commented on how loud and brash the tone was, and the Kawai was too big for the room.

Finally, late in 2022, the Kawai reached a turning point: it no longer held its pitch, even after tuning. Within a week of a tuning, I could hear it going out of tune. Within two weeks of that tuning, choir and congregation members would comment after the service, "Is there something...*wrong*...with the piano?" This prompted me to begin the conversation again with Pastor Mark and Lori Thomson: "It's time. Are we agreed?" This time, yes, we were in agreement.

So, back to Schmitt's, now in Bloomington. Sue greeted me, "Well, I wondered when you'd be back." I played several pianos that day: a new Steinway model M (5'10") - lovely, but financially impossible, a new Kawai 5'7"

grand, a new Boston 5'4" grand, both within our price range but rather utilitarian. Then, Sue took me into their storage room filled with used and consignment pianos, showed me a few suggestions, and the best in our price range was the Steinway Model L now in our sanctuary.

The 5'10 $\frac{1}{4}$ " Model L was built in 1985 and was held by a single owner who took tremendous care of this instrument. Sue's opinion was the piano was likely good for another 10-15 years before needing any additional servicing aside from regular tunings.

On Wednesday, May 10 our piano was delivered and we blessed this piano during worship on Sunday, May 14. Our Sunday School Singers, Alleluia Singers, and Peace Choir all were accompanied by this piano in worship that day. Now, we have a piano which fits the sanctuary, and accompanying the children was the easiest it's ever been.

I wish to extend my sincerest thanks and gratitude to all the members of Peace who generously made our "new" piano possible. I hope you will enjoy it as much as I will.

—Bruce Hudson

Bible Study Opportunities

Adult Evening Bible Study Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00pm Led by Pastor Mark Nelson


Join us as we review and discuss some Lenten scripture and then preview the coming Sunday's Gospel reading.

We meet Wednesday nights, 6:00-7:00pm from May 31 through July 26! Come anytime; all are welcome!

Morning Bible Study Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30am Led by Group Members

We are currently studying the Gospel of Mark.

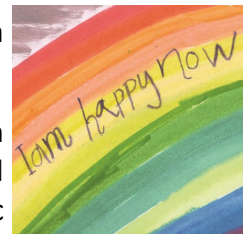
Rise and shine with us year-round on Wednesday mornings, 7:30-8:30am. Hot coffee provided! Questions? Please contact Marc Hanson at pratt.hanson@gmail.com.

service & mission 

Cornerstone Thanks Peace

Peace received a thank you from Cornerstone for our donation in April of bedsheets, a requested item.

Cornerstone serves adults and kids of all ages, genders and identities. Anyone can experience domestic violence, sexual violence, human trafficking or crime. Violence and abuse knows no boundaries; it happens in all communities regardless of socioeconomic status, ethnicity, culture, religion, etc. Cornerstone provides individual advocacy, support groups, help with housing, finances, finding a job, therapy, just to name a few services.



Lutheran World Relief Thanks Peace

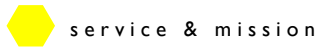
Peace received a handwritten thank you card from Lutheran World Relief:

“Dear people of Peace, Thank you for your recent gift to Lutheran World Relief. Your love is being put to work right away caring for our neighbors around the world. I am so grateful for your partnership in this work.

In gratitude,

Emma Wagner, Manager for Congregational Engagement.”

Peace also received a thank you letter from LWR for our donation of \$4,039.49. Among other things, it funded a gift of a beehive for Walaa Ali al Ali, a Syrian refugee living in Lebanon. She is a primary breadwinner for her family and extended family and has struggled to find work. This beehive plus business training has enabled her to start a business as a beekeeper.



2023 Congregational Lenten Service Project

The Results Are In!



This year Peace's Lenten congregational service initiative was to prepare Baby Care and Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). **LWR Baby Care Kits** provide the basics that a family needs to care for their newest member. **LWR Personal Care Kits** improve the standard of living for people around the world.

We asked for item and/or financial donations to create these kits. Even the children got into it with the children's offerings going towards funding Baby Care Kits. Financial donations totaled....**\$8,693.10!** After much sorting, counting, sewing, crocheting, matching, washing, a group of Service & Mission committee members and Peace congregation members of all ages rolled up their sleeves on Tuesday, April 11 to assemble **248 kits**. Then on Tuesday, April 18, members of the Service & Mission Committee loaded their vehicles and delivered boxes packed with the kits to the LWR shipping site in South St. Paul.

Many thanks to the extra efforts of Kris Holm, Inga Borggreve, Lori Thomson, and Daina Sivanich; the Service and Mission Committee; and all of you for this Christ-like effort on behalf of others in great need!

Baby Care Kits

- We packed 145 kits!
- Kit contents included hand towel, 2 t-shirts, 2 sleepers, 2 receiving blankets, 1 hooded jacket or sweater, 4 cloth diapers, 2 pairs of socks, baby soap, diaper pins.

Personal Care Kits

- We packed 103 kits!
- Kit contents: Bath towel, bar soap, comb, toothbrush, nail clippers.

Cash Donations

- Over half the cash donations received were used to purchase items for kits.
- The remaining cash (\$4,039.49) was given to Lutheran World Relief for the continuation of their ministry to our neighbors around the world.



LWR Baby Care Kits Now an Ongoing Effort

The LWR Baby Care Kit initiative was so successful, that the Service & Mission Committee would like to continue this effort on an ongoing basis!

A yellow collection bin is in the narthex for your donations. Affixed to the bin is a list of the nine different items needed—new or gently-used baby clothing in sizes 6-24 months, large receiving blankets (36"-52" square), cloth diapers/pins, gentle soap, hand towels, etc.

If you would like to make a financial donation, make a check out to Peace Lutheran Church and write "LWR Baby Care Kits" in the memo line.

Items will be collected and stored and periodically, will be packed and delivered to the LWR warehouse in St. Paul. We thank you for your care for the littlest ones in need throughout the world.

Time For....

In the world of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry, there is a strange balance of how to monitor the passing of time. On one hand, there is the church calendar, which begins with Advent, then moves cyclically through Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. On another hand, there is the Gregorian Calendar, which has 365 days (except when there's 366), moves with us through the month, day, and year of the Common Era, and is mostly commonly known as just "calendar." And then there is also the school calendar—the biological clock of most individuals under the age of 22 that begins with the start of school in the fall and ends at the beginning of a wonderful, liminal time known as summer. Personally, my "ministry year" moves most closely with the school calendar, which makes this the perfect time to reflect.

Most noticeably, we've had a lot to celebrate since September: our Sunday School registrations increased by 25% compared to last year; the

Alleluia Singers were formed and became a fantastic addition to our music ministries; we had another wonderful year of Confirmation that was highlighted by a world religions retreat, time spent at Gustavus, and being service assistants in worship twice this spring; we had ten 6th-12th grade students who helped as a teacher or substitute for Sunday School; our CYF Committee led us in neighborhood hospitality at our Trunk or Treat event in October, and the congregation was incredibly generous to our students who hosted a pancake brunch in advance of their service trip to Chicago. And these are just a few of the things God has been doing in and through Peace!

And as we turn the page into summer, I invite you to pray for all of the kids who will attend Vacation Bible School in late June, all of the young people heading up to Camp Wapo, each of the families going to Luther Crest in Alexandria for Family Camp, and each of the

students going to serve God and our neighbors in Chicago.

And I also ask you to pray for me and my family as we get set to welcome our second baby boy who is due in early July. I'll be on paternity leave for the six weeks following his birth, and I will look forward to my return before the next "ministry year" begins.

Thank you in advance for your support and care—it's been palpable already—and may each of you experience God's blessings in abundance during these summer months.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Joe Orner



Recognition—Confirmation, Graduates, CYF Leaders

One of the great joys of ministry is celebrating meaningful moments and milestones with people. Sometimes it's a baptism or a wedding, other times a significant accomplishment or achievement. Meaningful moments matter.

And in April, we got to celebrate with 8th grader, Teo Sivanich, as he completed our **Confirmation** program and affirmed his baptism. Teo is now an adult member of our congregation, he has embraced the promises and love of God, and he has taken the responsibilities of faith to heart.



As the school year ends, we also celebrate our **high school students graduating in the Class of 2023**: Marta Borggreve, Julia Freemark, Harrison Oxford, Ava Scribner, and Elena Stockinger.



Marta Borggreve



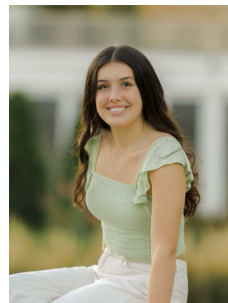
Julia Freemark



Harrison Oxford



Ava Scribner



Elena Stockinger

And as we celebrate with those students, we also acknowledge that it takes a village to raise children—we can't (and shouldn't) do everything on our own, and it is such a great

blessing to know that there are other people who support and care for them too. And so I want to acknowledge all of our wonderful leaders who embody what it means to be *growing a community that nurtures a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ*, and who have given generously of their time and talents to share in ministry with our younger generations:

Sunday School Teachers:

Marcia Craig, Robin and Parker Kennedy, Katie Loeffler, Sofia Oman, Jason and Avery Rich, Teo Sivanich, Aaron and Kara Stender, Elena and Evie Stockinger, Jackie Waller.

Sunday School Substitutes:

Gavin Churchill, Tricia Davis, Kim and Bianca Gehant, Mary Kautto, Kiya Losinski, Jeremy and Julia Macejkovic, Holly Rich, Emily Sidhom, Daina Sivanich, Lauren Toppin, Angela Tschida, Bonnie Weseli and Kingston Fast.

Confirmation: Ryan Byers and Carter Mason.

High School and Young Adults: Carter Mason.

Music: Marcia Craig, Ben Hanson, Bruce Hudson.

—Pastor Joe Orner

VBS Preview

June 26-29 | 9:00am-12:00pm

This summer at our STELLAR VBS, we'll discover all the ways that God's love is out of this world! Each day we will Shine Jesus' Light through engaging Bible stories, exciting games, meaningful services projects, and memorable worship music.

AND, this year we will be hosting VBS at Peace, and we will once again join together with our neighbors over at



Community of the Cross Lutheran Church.

Don't miss out on this amazingly STELLAR opportunity!

Please contact Pastor Joe to register and walk ins will be welcome. We'll do our best to make sure that each child is able to enjoy this fantastic opportunity.

—Pastor Joe Orner

Chicago Youth Trip Preview

This summer our 8th-12th grade students will be traveling to serve our neighbors in Chicago.

Throughout the week we will be serving alongside several local organizations who are already making a big difference in the communities there. Our days will begin with soaking in God's Word, and then we will spend the day at our service sites—one service opportunity in the morning, and one in the afternoon.

In the evenings we will enjoy group dinners together and go on evening excursions to get to

know the city better—think Millennium Park, Wrigley Field, Navy Pier, etc. We'll conclude each day with a time of reflection and prayer.

Please keep us in your prayers, and be sure to follow Peace's Instagram and Facebook pages for updates throughout our trip!

—Pastor Joe Orner



Summer 2023 Camps Preview

It's going to be a busy, Spirit-filled summer for all of the students and families at Peace, yet again! Here is a preview of what we're looking forward to this year:

- June 10-16 Service Trip: Chicago (Grades 6-12)
- June 16-18 Camp Wapogasset Seeds (Grades 1-3)
- June 26-29 VBS at Peace, with CCLC (PreK—5th Grade)
- July 14-16 Family Camp at Luther Crest Bible Camp
- July 30-Aug. 4 Camp Wapogasset Youth Camp (Grades 4-9)

Summer Fellowship



PICKLEBALL

Adults, join us on **Tuesday nights**, 6:30pm at Westwood Park (3416 West 108th Street, Bloomington). Bring a chair and pickleball paddle or use Peace's equipment. All skill levels welcome!



TRIVIA NIGHT

20 & 30 Somethings, join us on **Wednesday, June 7** at 6:30pm we'll meet at Wooden Hill Brewing Company (7421 Bush Lake Road, Edina) for trivia night. Please RSVP to Pastor Joe at pastor.joe@peacebloomington.org.



BBQ & TRIVIA NIGHT

Everyone of all ages is invited to our barbeque and trivia night on **Tuesday, July 11** at 6:00pm! Bring your own beverage and last names beginning with the letter below please bring:

- A-H—salad or side dish
- I-P—chips or appetizer
- Q-Z—dessert



ALL-AMERICAN BBQ

Adults ages 80+, save the date to join us at Peace on **Thursday, July 27** for an old fashioned barbeque! Transportation will be provided if needed. (Volunteers of any age are welcome to provide rides, help cook, serve, and/or clean up.)



MINI-GOLF & ICE CREAM

Families, join us on **Sunday, August 20** at 2:00pm at The Links at Dred Scott for some friendly and fun mini-golf! Afterwards, we'll walk over to Scoops to cool off with a refreshing scoop or two!

Look for more information about each event and how to sign up in the Sunday bulletin, the weekly e-Note or Blast, or on Peace's website!

Meet the New Council Members

On Sunday, April 30, 2023 we installed newly-elected Church Council members: Holly Long, Emily Sidhom, and Dave Thoen. Read on to get to know each of them a little better.

What is one of your favorite things about Peace?



Holly Long, member since March, 2016: I love how warm and inviting the people at Peace are to new members. I felt at home immediately when my husband, Dave, brought me to Peace. I feel the leadership from Mark and Joe are key to the atmosphere here at Peace.



Emily Sidhom, member since March, 2018: The sermons grounded in the Gospel, and having such a beautiful sanctuary where we can enjoy service and the outdoors all at once.



Dave Thoen, member since May, 1994: Great friends, conversations and Sunday messages.

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

HL: I would tell someone that Peace is a welcoming

community that values its members. Joining in, whether it's the Altar Guild or being a Greeter, you feel that what you do is appreciated. It's a smaller congregation with a very big heart.

ES: It's a wonderful place to grow your relationship with Christ. The church sticks to the Bible and there is tons of family programming if you want that too.

DT: Some of our very best friends are Peace members and we can always rely on each other.

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

HL: Absolutely, I have grown. I feel so much more connected to the gospel than I have anywhere else I've worshiped. I love Bible study because it has opened my eyes to so much more than just the words in the gospels. Also, I have learned so much about the beautiful Lutheran faith that my husband so loved. I get it now.

ES: Continuing to deepen my relationship with the Bible!

DT: Despite staying my 6'3" self over the past 28 years, in other ways, yes! I've relearned the (growing up in a very small town) importance of community.

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

HL: It would be a big, friendly dog, making you feel like you are the most important person in the world.

ES: White Sandhill crane. Both because that's what I see looking at my window right now – but - also because the animal is unique in it's simplicity and beautiful!

DT: A chameleon. Stable when needed, changing when needed.

What's your favorite donut?

HL: My favorite is a chocolate old-fashioned donut.

ES: Chocolate with chocolate frosting! AND ALWAYS from Jerrys. And/or Bogarts' Nutella-filled donuts!

DT: The Peace coffee far exceeds any other church coffee so that I don't make it to the donuts!

What's your favorite hymn?

HL: I love "On Eagle's Wings," (ELW 787). It always touches my heart and makes me cry.

ES: "Lead me, Lord" by John D Becker. Anything with the piano! I'm so excited for our new one!

DT: "Let Us Break Bread **TOGETHER**" (ELW 471).



New Members

On February 19, 2023, four new members joined Peace! Please welcome Jim and Carolyn Bergum, Marcia Craig, and Mona Gerike.



Jim and Carolyn Bergum



Marcia Craig



Mona Gerike

Pastor Mark Prays with Minnesota House of Representatives

On March 30, 2023, Pastor Mark was invited to lead in prayer the opening of that day's Minnesota House of



Representatives' Floor Session. His prayer follows:

Let us pray: Almighty and ever-loving God: As we stand in this House this day, we praise You for You are good. We praise You for You are gracious, and your goodness is everlasting. And we praise You for Your mercies, which are new every day.

We pray today for the members of this body, who have been given the privilege and responsibility of

conducting the people's business. Bless them according to their needs. Surround them with your love. Guide their

steps and inspire their hearts—that they would use their many talents to make Minnesota and the world better.

When they are tempted to give up hope and to give in to despair and think, *"Nothing I do is going to make a difference,"* remind them of the words of your servant, Vaclav Havel: *"Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well. But the certainty that some things are worth doing no matter how they turn out."* In

their often hard and challenging tasks today, remind them that what they do here matters, and is worth doing no matter what happens.

Be with all those here this day and every day they serve here. Give them the wisdom of Solomon, the patience of Job, the compassion of the Good Samaritan. So that at the end of their days they may have the sure and certain knowledge they have served this state and their country well.

In your most holy and merciful name we pray. Amen.

—Pastor Mark Nelson

Life Passages

Births

- **Avery James Elling** son of Rob and Kelsey Elling born on October 26, 2022. He is also welcomed by sister, Madison.
- **Hudson Hayes Vander Stelt** son of Toni Davidson and Jason Vander Stelt born on January 13, 2023. He is also welcomed by brother, Mason.
- **Connor Hansen Dorn** son of Bobby and Erin Dorn born on March 19, 2023. Connor is welcomed by the entire Hansen family: Jon and Betty Hansen; Mark Hansen; Matt, Lauren, Luke, Audrey, and Claire Toppin.

Baptisms

- **Alice Evelyn DesMarais** baptized on April 30, 2023. Alice is the daughter of Lee and Becca DesMarais. Alice's sponsors are Nathan and Alison Young.

Grieving

- **Tom and Linda Tangen and family** upon the death of Linda's cousin, Roger Strand who died on February 20, 2023.

- **Donna Chatfield** upon the death of her husband, David Chatfield on February 27, 2023.
- **Gerry Dooley** upon the deaths of her sister and brother-in-law, Sharon (d. March 19, 2023) and Kenneth Wyberg (d. February 11, 2023).
- **James Sebesta** upon the death of his wife, Pam on March 26, 2023.
- **Milt Lefebvre** upon the death of his son, Jerry Iverson on April 1, 2023.
- **Marc Hanson, Leslie Pratt and the Hanson family** upon the death of Marc's father, Marvin Hanson on April 9, 2023.
- **Jill Conda, Katie Jacobson, and Megan Jacobson** upon the death of their husband and father, Mark Jacobson on April 27, 2023.
- **Tom Tisthammer and Michelle Johnson** upon the death of Michelle's brother, Jeff Johnson on May 19, 2023.
- **Dave and Nancy Dynneson** on the death of Nancy's brother, Gary Peterson on May 19, 2023.

Church Council Elections

At the May 16, 2023 Church Council meeting, the following officers were elected for the 2023/2024 year. **President:** Connor Myhre; **Vice President:** Adam Tschida; **Treasurer:** Jason Rich; **Secretary:** Dave Thoen. Also serving on the Church Council are: Gayle Haugen, Holly Long, Loey Nordsletten-Soderstrom, Emily Sidhom, Kara Stender.

partners

Spring 2023

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(952) 944-6510
www.peacebloomington.org

Editor in Chief
Pastor Mark Nelson

Managing Editor
Daina Sivanich

Staff Writers
Pastor Joe Orner
Lori Thomson

Email Editorial
daina.sivanich@peacebloomington.org

On The Cover
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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.



In Memoriam: David Dake Chatfield December 2, 1933—February 27, 2023



It's hard to imagine in our society that we could get a job without a resume in hand and a list of references. It was the same in St. Paul's time. Paul himself wrote letters of recommendation, especially for his colleagues. But in one instance, there was no need for written words. *"You. Written by Christ himself for God are our letter of recommendation (2 Corinthians 3:1-3)."*

David Chatfield was one of God's letters of recommendation to all of us. No words were needed. David's life *itself* was a testimonial of goodness and character.

David was born on December 2, 1933. Growing up near Lake of the Isles, he swam in the summer; skated and sled in the winters. David went to Minneapolis Public Schools and graduated from West High School in 1952. After David graduated, he enlisted in the Navy during the Korean War. He trained as a main gunner on a landing transport ship.

Back home after his military service, there came a moment that was changed David's life forever. One Donna Niebuhr

was out with her teacher friends at a club. When Dave came in, he had on an old fishing hat with all his favorite fishing lures hanging down. Donna told her friends to look out for that guy because he was trouble! He quickly spotted Donna and her friends and made his way over. One thing led to another, and in June of 1957, at Donna's home church, St. John's Lutheran Church in Clinton, Iowa, Dave and Donna were married.

Donna says of him: *"He was a wonderful, wonderful husband; all the adventures we had together. He was always attentive. Always thoughtful."* And there was this. David told Donna, promised Donna, *"I'll be right there, always."* For 65 years Dave was there for Donna, a testimony to a good and loving husband.

David worked for Sperry Unisys for 35 years as a systems programmer, a testimony of a skilled and supportive fellow worker. A father to two sons, Kurt and Dake.

Dave's life was testimony, a testimony of a faithful life. Wherever he went, he brought joy, brought people close. Dave was a member of this congregation for 8 years. Dave was always good to be around;

his smile, his energy—a good member through thick and thin. David's faith was evident when he got ill. His son, Kurt said: *"Dad was optimistic. When he learned that he had Pulmonary Fibrosis, he said, 'Well, it's not good.'" That was it. He didn't feel sorry for himself or get depressed. He was courageous.* David's life itself was a letter of recommendation, a living testimony, of God's goodness and grace.

David died on February 27, 2023 at the age of 89. His funeral service was held at Peace on March 17th and is survived by his wife, Donna; his sons, Dake and Kurt, and their families. Blessed be his memory.

—Pastor Mark Nelson

In Memoriam: Pamela Kay Sebesta

April 10, 1956—March 26, 2023



Toward the end of Psalm 77, the Psalmist expresses a particular trust in the Lord. He says,

“Your way was through the sea, O Lord, your path through the mighty waters. And yet your footprints were unseen.”

Pam Sebesta loved this image of footprints. The Psalmist is making a bold claim. He’s remembering the exodus from Egypt. There had been a miraculous escape from the Red Sea. The water had suddenly parted and suddenly Israel was free and they were finally able to go on to the Promised Land. Reflecting for a moment, I can imagine them saying, *“The Lord was with us all right, even though we couldn’t see the footprints. The Lord was with us every step of the way.”*

Footprints are the marks we leave behind us. Sometimes we see them and sometimes we don’t. Pam managed to leave footprints in a number of places. And your lives were infinitely richer because of her. Pam Holets was born on April 10, 1956 in Rochester, Minnesota. In high school at Rochester Mayo, her footprints led her to Jim Sebesta and on September 7th, 1974, Pam and Jim were married at Grace Lutheran Church in Rochester. Jim traveled a lot over his career but, as he said, *“We weren’t always together but we were inseparable.”*

Together, Pam and Jim moved to Minneapolis, then Roseville, and then back to Rochester, where she worked for the *Academy of Ophthalmology* as an accountant. Then it was a move to Duluth, then Burnsville, Shakopee, and finally to Bloomington.

Pam left footprints as a mother to Derek, Jeff, and Mike, leaving footprints throughout the family’s life. She wasn’t afraid of doing anything. She could tie hockey skates and never missed a game. The boys played baseball, even in the living room! It was all about the boys and their friends. The Sebesta house was known and the *“fun house,”* and Pam, *“the fun Mom.”* Pam left footprints—as a daughter, a wife, a mother, a grandmother, an employee, and a friend—wherever she went.

Pam died unexpectedly on March 26th at the age of 66 and is survived by her husband, Jim, and her sons, Derek, Jeff, and Mike. Her funeral service was at Peace on April 12th. Blessed be her memory.

—Pastor Mark Nelson



In Memoriam: Mark Alan Jacobson

April 7, 1961—April 27, 2023



A lawyer once asked Jesus, “What is the greatest commandment.” Jesus responded

saying that the one supreme law is that we are “to love God with all our hearts, minds, and souls.” And then Jesus added a second commandment. “Love your neighbor as you love yourself” (Matthew 25:35-40).” These words of Jesus remind me of Mark. Mark mirrored our gracious God in loving his neighbors as he loved himself.

Mark was born on April 7, 1961 in Minneapolis. Attended Bloomington schools until 8th grade. Then Groton School in Massachusetts, the University of North Carolina, and the University of Minnesota Law School. It was in those university and law school years that Mark was drawn, not to learning for learning’s sake but how what his education could do to make things better for people.

In his 3rd year of law school, he met Jill Conda on a blind date. Jill worked at Cargill by day and working on her MBA by night. Dates were often spent just studying.

After that first date, Jill announced: “I think I met the man I’m going to marry.” And so following Mark’s graduation from Law School in 1987, they did!

From there, Mark’s law career brought them to California and a clerkship with a federal judge in Fresno, to Washington, D.C., and then finally back to Minneapolis where he worked for local law firms in commercial litigation and anti-trust law. He did significant *pro bono* work, asylum cases, and was on the board of the *Center for Victims of Torture*. Mark never forgot the goal of lawyering as he saw it. Which was how to best serve, in love, the best interests of others and make the world a better place.

Along with Mark’s vocation as an attorney, and his life with Jill, Mark’s compassion to “love your neighbor” got channeled into a very particular effort; loving his children, Katie and Megan. As one said of him, “Mark loved his kids fiercely” and it showed. He shared life with them; their sports, fishing, homework, all of it.

Mark’s caring for the neighbor extended beyond his family, his work, and also to this Church. He served as Council President of this congregation, served on

the Service and Mission Committee, was a prayer partner for Confirmation students, and taught Sunday School. Wherever there was a neighbor in need of care, Mark was there.

Even when he was diagnosed with cancer in 2014, Mark did what he could, when he could. Throughout his whole illness remained upbeat. Mark never said, “Why me?” It was, “Why not me?” Mark would say, “I can’t fix it, so I’m not going to be angry. I’ll do something instead.”

It’s been said: “The size of a person’s world is the size of his or her heart.” And he was never more alive when he was loving his neighbor as himself. With Jill, Katie, Megan. In his work. With his friends. *Wherever* he was. Yes, Mark Jacobson had a very big heart.

Mark died on April 27th at the age of 62 and is survived by his wife, Jill and their daughters, Katie and Megan. Blessed be his memory.

—Pastor Mark Nelson

Devotion: “The Burden of Love”

As you can read on these last pages of the newsletter, many of you have suffered grief and loss upon the death of loved ones over these last few months.

The British author C.S. Lewis (*The Chronicles of Narnia*, *Mere Christianity* and others) knew something about grief and loss. In another book, *A Grief Observed*, he tells of his pain. Two things had suddenly crashed together in his life. One was that he realized that he was in love with his friend, Joy Davidman. As Joy’s son later described, “*They seemed to walk together within a glow of their own making.*” Lewis also found out that he was about to lose her. Around the time of their wedding, Joy was diagnosed with terminal cancer. They would only have three years together.

Lewis tried to draw a map of what was happening; first to understand it himself, and then, maybe, to help others experiencing the same confusing reality. What Lewis discovered was there was no map. Grief couldn’t be charted because it couldn’t be pinned down. There was something new to be described every day. But not controlled. Grief, he found, has a mind of its own. Lewis explained how loss led him down into deep valleys in winding



circles. It brought him to normal places where it seemed he could breathe again. But just as quickly, he would find himself crying like a 5 year-old. Then suddenly he would find himself in a kind of joy; the joy and gratitude to God for life and memories shared. “*There is nothing we can do with suffering, except to suffer it,*” says Lewis.

When we have lost someone, advice from other people can sound a lot like white noise. “*She’s in a better place.*” “*At least he is not suffering anymore.*” A wall seems to come between the grieving and everybody else in the normal world. Nevertheless, those who have lost loved ones all need a bit of permission to allow ourselves time to feel the weight of loss, and move through it in our own way.

So what can then be said of grief except, as Lewis said, that it is “*the burden of love*”? Grief can’t be defined or drawn, only suffered. All of it. There’s no map. No one can tell you what that must be for you at any given time. But we can let our Lord and his promises gently—*gently*—lead us through.

—Pastor Mark Nelson

Staff and Contact Information

(952) 944-6510 | www.peacebloomington.org

- Pastor Mark Nelson—Senior Pastor; pastor.nelson@peacebloomington.org
- Pastor Joe Orner—Associate Pastor, pastor.joe@peacebloomington.org
- Bruce Hudson—Organ, Piano
- Lori Thomson—Administrator, lori.thomson@peacebloomington.org
- Daina Sivanich—Communications Specialist, daina.sivanich@peacebloomington.org

PEACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

8600 East Bush Lake Road
Bloomington, MN 55438

Phone: 952.944.6510

Email: info@peacebloomington.org

Website: www.peacebloomington.org

Sunday Worship: 9:30am



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



VBS held at Peace this summer!

June 26 -29, 2023

9:00am-12:00pm

Register online:

<https://vbspro.events/p/peacecclc23>