

# partners

Peace Lutheran Church

Spring, 2024



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

from the senior pastor

## Lent/Holy Week/Easter, 2024

As Christians and the Church, we will soon begin our walk with Jesus through Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. The whole church descends to the depths with Jesus Christ. With the Gospel readings as our mirror, we tell each other the truth again—about God, the brokenness of the world, and ourselves. Of course, the cross isn't the end of the story, but Lent acknowledges the reality of Jesus' sacrifice for us and our own good—and hard—lives. Jesus knew pain and grief and despair, and so do we.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> and marks the forty days leading up to Jesus' death on a cross and his surprising return to life three days later. The season begins with ashes on our forehead to remind us of our mortality, our limitations, that we are going to die. *"From dust we were made, to dust we shall return."*

From that first day of Lent, we walk through Scripture Sunday after Sunday, showing us the

world as it is; showing us as we really are. We will hear about Jesus' beginnings, his baptism and, right away, his temptations in the wilderness.

From there we follow Jesus as he makes his way toward Jerusalem. As he does, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come and we hear Peter's response to the news of the cross out ahead.

We will hear then the story of Jesus in the Temple; his real anger at those who would use religion to benefit only themselves. Also from Jerusalem, we'll hear the story of the nighttime encounter of Jesus and Nicodemus and those well-known words, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son..."*

As we near his last week, we'll hear Jesus' strange words about his death: *"Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."*

Entering Holy Week, we'll see Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival, where Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground will soon take on new meaning for us all.

And then; then Easter! Jesus' resurrection and our own! A preview of the power of Christ's resurrection in our lives, a glimpse of God's kingdom that comes in Jesus Christ our Lord.

I invite you to join in for these holy days.

A blessed Lent, Holy Week, and Easter to us all!

—Pastor Mark Nelson



### Lenten Wednesdays

February 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20

Lenten supper served 5:30-6:15pm; \$5/person; \$15/family

Lenten midweek worship at 6:30pm

## Lenten Daily Devotionals

Our Lenten walk begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. The good news? We don't walk Lent alone. Your fellow walkers in faith here at Peace have, with Bible in one hand and their own lives in another, described our walk with Jesus in our congregation's annual Lenten Daily Devotional Booklet. These daily devotions are available to you in a daily e-mail or in print.

The printed devotional booklet will be available in the narthex on Sunday, February 11. Everyone who receives the Friday e-Note will receive Lenten Devotionals by email. If you would like to be added to the daily devotional list, please send an email to Daina Sivanich at [daina.sivanich@peacebloomington.org](mailto:daina.sivanich@peacebloomington.org).

The real Good News for all of us? Jesus will walk with you through whatever kind of Lenten day you are having. The wonderful one. The garbage one. The one that barely seems like it counted at all. As we walk through every kind of emotion this season—boredom, devastation, happiness, irritation—we pray: “Bless this Lent.”

—Pastor Mark Nelson

## Ash Wednesday, February 14



On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with day of fasting and repentance.

Ash Wednesday is a solemn day of prayer. On this day we confess our sin in a litany of repentance. We also receive the sign of ashes. This ancient symbol of repentance reminds us of our mortality. Returning to God's mercy and grace, marked with the cross of Christ, we make our way through Lent, longing for the baptismal waters of Easter, our spiritual rebirth.

Join us for worship with Holy Communion on **Wednesday, February 14 at 6:30pm.**

*(Please note, Lenten suppers will begin on Wednesday, February 21.)*

## Lenten Midweek Series: “God in Pain”

All of us know something about pain and suffering. Anyone who has suffered through even one night of deep hurt knows what it is like to pray for relief. Sometimes the prayer is answered and sometimes it is not. Still, as Christians in those times, we trust that Jesus Christ is present in our suffering.

On these Wednesday evenings, we will look at the pain Jesus suffered during Holy Week and Good Friday and what God might be showing us in our pain and suffering.

Join us on Wednesday nights, 6:30-7:15pm on February 21, 28, March 6, 13, and 20. Our evening worship will use the Holden Evening Prayer setting.

A Lenten supper will precede midweek worship and will be served from 5:30-6:15pm. \$5/person or \$15/family.

- **February 21:** John 13:21-35
- **February 28:** John 19:8-11a
- **March 6:** John 19:1-6
- **March 13:** John 19:16b-28
- **March 20:** John 19:31-37

—Pastor Mark Nelson



# Seasonal Worship Guide

## February

4	11	14	18	25
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany, 9:30am	Transfiguration of Our Lord, 9:30am	Ash Wednesday 6:30pm	First Sunday in Lent, 9:30am	Second Sunday in Lent, 9:30am
Preacher: Pastor Joe Orner	Preacher: Pastor Joe Orner	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson
Sunday School Singers, Peace Choir	Peace Choir	Confession of Sin, Imposition of Ashes, Holy Communion, Peace Choir	Holy Communion, Peace Choir, New Members Received	Holy Communion, Alleluia Singers, Peace Choir
Adult Education, Sunday School	New Member Orientation	—	Adult Education, Sunday School	Adult Education, Sunday School

## March

3	10	17	24	28	29	31
Third Sunday in Lent, 9:30am	Fourth Sunday in Lent, 9:30am	Fifth Sunday in Lent, 9:30am	Palm Sunday, 9:30am	Maundy Thursday, 7:00pm	Good Friday, 7:00pm	Easter Sunday, 9:30 and 11:15am
Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Joe Orner	Preacher: Pastor Joe Orner	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Joe Orner	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson
Sunday School Singers, Peace Choir, Holy Communion	Peace Choir, Holy Communion	Peace Choir, Holy Communion	Sunday School Singers, Alleluia Singers, Peace Choir	Holy Communion	Readings, prayers, meditations	Holy Communion
Adult Education, Sunday School	Adult Education, Sunday School	Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser, Sunday	Adult Education; Sunday School			

## April

7		14		21		28	
Second Sunday of Easter, 9:30am		Third Sunday of Easter, 9:30am		Fourth Sunday of Easter		Fifth Sunday of Easter, 9:30am	
Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson		Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson		Preacher: Pastor Joe Orner		Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	
Sermon Series: "Living the Resurrection"							
Gospel: John 20:19-31		Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48		Gospel: John 10:11-18		Gospel: John 15:1-8	
Peace Choir, Holy Communion		Peace Choir, Holy Communion		Peace Choir, Rite of Confirmation, Holy Communion		Alleluia Singers, Peace Choir, Holy Communion, Church Council Installed	
Adult Education, Sunday School		Adult Education, Sunday School		Adult Education, Sunday School		Adult Education, Sunday School	

## May

5		12		19		26	
Sixth Sunday of Easter, 9:30am		Seventh Sunday of Easter, 9:30am		Day of Pentecost, 9:30am		First Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	
Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson		Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson		Preacher: Pastor Joe Orner		Preacher: Pastor Joe Orner	
Sermon Series: "Living the Resurrection"				—		—	
Gospel: John 15:9-17		Gospel: John 17:6-19		—		—	
Peace Choir, Holy Communion		Sunday School Singers, Alleluia Singers, Peace Choir, Holy Communion, Sunday School/Youth Teacher Recognition		Peace Choir, Holy Communion, High School Senior Recognition		Peace Choir, Holy Communion	
Sunday Adult Education, Sunday School		Sunday Adult Education, Sunday School (Last Day)		Fellowship		Fellowship	



# Spring Sermon Series: “Living the Resurrection”

Sundays, April 7, 14, 21, 28, May 5, 12

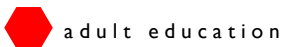
The resurrection of Jesus Christ is history-changing and life-changing. So it is no wonder that the celebration of Easter is not just one day; it is a celebration that lasts 50 days. There is simply too much to take in on one Sunday morning.

So over these Sundays in the Easter season we will,

beginning with the post-resurrection stories of Jesus, talk about what it means to “live the resurrection,” or “practice the resurrection.” For the resurrection of Jesus does not have to do exclusively with what happens after we die. But first of all it has to do with the way we live everyday life. While Jesus’ body has been, for

now, returned to heaven, the body of Christ remains lived through Christians and the Church. We live out the presence of the Risen Jesus Christ in the details of the here and now.

—*Pastor Mark Nelson*



## Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Resumes Wednesday, April 3

We will take a break from Wednesday Evening Bible Study during Lent and Holy Week. We’ll resume meeting on Wednesday, April 3 and at that time we will resume our study, **“The New Testament in Seven Sentences.”**

All of us have been on a car trip. We go through valleys and towns; going east, west, north, or south; and we’re not really sure where we are and where we’re going! Take a plane trip

instead? It’s all different! We can see with a larger lens how things are connected.

Something like that happens while reading and hearing the New Testament, too. We hear about Jesus’ activities (a miracle, a confrontation) or his teaching (a parable, a conversation). But without a larger picture, those things lose their importance and we’re not sure how they are connected. Only a view from 30,000 feet

will help us to see the whole context with an accurate perspective and get some new meaning about our Christian faith.

In these sessions, we’ll cover seven sentences that are essential if we are to understand the New Testament. Join in!

—*Pastor Mark Nelson*



# Sunday Adult Education

## **Sunday, February 4**

### **John Noltner, A Peace of My Mind author**

During the pandemic, Peace members John and Karen Noltner hit the road to gather stories of hope and healing for his ongoing project A Peace of My Mind. For 2-1/2 years, they intentionally journeyed to some of our nation's pain points to live small, listen deeply, and—in a divided world—to rediscover what connects us.

John has just released his book about the journey, *Lessons on the Road to Peace*. Come hear an update on the project from John and learn about the ways “A Peace of My Mind” is using these stories in Minnesota and across the country to bridge divides and build community.

## **Sunday, February 11**

### **Kari Thompson, CEO of VEAP (Volunteers Enlisted to Serve People)**

Kari joined VEAP in early 2019 as the Advancement Director, before becoming CEO in September, 2022.

As CEO, Kari is responsible for the active direction, management and administration of VEAP, and serves as the face of the organization to the communities they serve. Kari



works to proactively develop and nurture relationships with peer organizations, philanthropic donors and leaders in the south Hennepin County community to ensure VEAP remains an innovative and responsive organization.

## **Sunday, February 18**

To be announced.

## **Sunday, February 25**

Enjoy extended fellowship time!

## **Sunday, March 3 and 10**

### **“Anti-Semitism”**

In recent months, there has been a significant rise in the number of incidents of violence directed at Jewish people. Over these two Sundays, we’ll examine both current day anti-Semitism and the roots of anti-Semitism in the Bible.—*Pastor Mark Nelson*

## **Sunday, March 17**

Peace Youth Fundraising Pancake Breakfast and extended fellowship time!

## **Sunday, March 24, Palm**

### **Sunday**

### **“The Three Days”**

The celebration of the Three Days of Jesus’ death and resurrection—Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday—commemorate

the central events of our Christian faith. We will explore the meaning of these events as we prepare for Holy Week.—*Pastor Mark Nelson*

## **Sunday, March 31, Easter Sunday**

*No Education Hour.*

## **Sunday, April 7**

### **“Post Easter Reflections”**

Together we will reflect on the Good News of Jesus Christ, risen from the dead. We’ll look at some of the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus and what they mean for us and our living.—*Pastor Mark Nelson*

## **Sunday, April 14**

### **“Understanding Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia”**

Alzheimer’s disease is a degenerative brain disease and the most common form of dementia. Dementia is not a specific disease. It’s an overall term that describes a group of symptoms. Worldwide, 55 million people are living with Alzheimer’s and other dementias. A representative from the Alzheimer’s Association will join us to help us understand these conditions.

# Service & Mission

## Spotlight On...VEAP

With this article, we start a new feature in *Partners* where we will highlight an organization that Peace supports with your benevolence dollars through the Service & Mission Committee. In this issue we focus on VEAP and our Minnesota Food Share Campaign during Lent.



### Why Does Peace Support VEAP?

In the early 1970s, a group of churches in Richfield and South Minneapolis that delivered Meals on Wheels became increasingly concerned about the poor and deteriorating living conditions of seniors in their community. This along with other societal issues mobilized a group of 13 Bloomington and Richfield churches to band together and in 1973 to form VEAP. Peace was one of those churches. Over its first years, VEAP provided a variety of programs with many of them focused on meeting the needs of the elderly including food deliveries, snow shoveling and basic handyman services. These programs evolved to focus on Food and Basic Needs. Today, VEAP is the largest food shelf in Minnesota.

### How is VEAP Supported/Funded?

VEAP receives support from a diverse base of congregations, businesses, foundations, schools, civic and fraternal organizations and individuals in Bloomington, Richfield, Edina and South Minneapolis. Second Harvest and local grocery stores provide most of the food. Local food drives are also supportive.

### How Do People Access VEAP's Programs and Services

Visitors make an appointment with a case worker and then can come twice a month to the on-site Food Pantry and receive a whole grocery cart of food with shelf-stable products, meats, dairy, and fresh produce. There are no income guidelines for VEAP's food pantry.

VEAP also offers an array of social services to alleviate short-term emergency needs (i.e., financial assistance to help families stay in their homes, get current on utility bills, or meet an immediate financial need that will lead to longer-term financial stability) and also works with clients to help build greater stability by addressing longer-term areas of need.

Rent assistance is offered and the VEAP staff can connect clients to community resources offered by Bloomington, Richfield, Edina, Hennepin County, etc. depending on the need.

### How Can You Get Involved?

VEAP depends on volunteers in everything that they do—all ages 16 and above and skill sets are needed; no experience needed. Children ages 9-15 can volunteer when accompanied by an adult. VEAP's website has a Volunteer Resources page that lists the open volunteer positions. Volunteer shifts range from 2.5-4.0 hours. There is no minimum requirement for number of hours volunteering.

Other ways to give include donating funds (\$10 will provide food for 30 meals!) and/or donating food (shelf-stable food, household products, pet food). VEAP can buy \$7-\$10 worth of food for every \$1.00 we give them.

### How Is Peace Currently Involved?

Peace gives money, "most needed items," and food. VEAP's "Most Needed" list includes: laundry detergent, toilet paper, soap, paper towels, shampoo, toothpaste,

*Continued on next page*





deodorant and all other home and personal hygiene products (including feminine hygiene items and adult diapers). They never have enough of these items. Every Friday morning a

member of the Service & Mission Committee brings Peace's weekly donations to VEAP. Our donations are usually distributed that same day.

Please see below for Peace's Lenten initiative with VEAP.

—*Dave Dynneson, Service & Mission Committee*

## 2024 Congregational Lenten Service Project Minnesota FoodShare Campaign

### Sunday, February 18 - Palm Sunday, March 24



The most sought after items at VEAP continue to be laundry detergent, personal care items, paper towels, and toilet paper; there is never enough to meet the demand. So this year, during the Minnesota FoodShare Campaign we are going to concentrate our efforts on these most needed items.

Minnesota Food Share is the largest grassroots food and fund drive in the state. VEAP is a participant.

Our campaign will run from Sunday February 18<sup>th</sup>, through Palm Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to the most wanted items, we'll collect money for food; VEAP can buy at a discount, getting 7 to 10 times the amount of food we can buy with our dollars.

So, let's fill the Narthex with these most needed items. If you choose to give money, write a check to Peace Lutheran Church with 'Food Drive' or 'VEAP' in the memo line.

Detergent, money, or both, this is an opportunity for us to make a difference in our own community.

—*Dave Dynneson, Service & Mission Committee*



# Service & Mission

## Another Christmas of “Good Gifts”



Wow!!! What a generous congregation! What a “gift” you are to the world!

From the ornaments on the Good Gifts tree, we know we collected \$7,564 in Good Gifts. And between Sunday School offerings and your benevolence dollars Peace bought one Water Well for a total of **\$10,104** this Christmas.

For numbers, we had 35-Goats; 21-Chicks; 14-Pigs; 10-Honey Bees; 6-School Fees and Uniforms for Girls; 6-Roosters; 6-School Supplies for a Child;

4-Feed Refugee Families; 4-Micro-loans for Women; 4-Vaccinations for a Child; 3-Water Filters; 3-Vaccinations for a child; 3-Stock a backpack with food; 3-Mosquito nets; 2-Fruit Tree Seedlings; 2-Cows; 2-School Supplies for an entire classroom; 2-Feed 50 at a Soup Kitchen; 2-Clinic Visits for a Child; 2-Fruit Tree Farms; 2-Community Vegetable Gardens; 2-Entire Family Farms; 1-Share a Cow; 1-Month of Nutrition for a Child; **1-Motor Bike for a Pastor** (no, not for Pastors Mark or Joe!).

Wow!!! Look at those numbers. We nearly doubled what we did in previous years. Goats are always the favorite, followed by chicks and piggies. Two families gave entire family

farms; three others gave a cow or share of a cow. Generosity!!!

These gifts will make a difference. They already have. Our kids and families experienced the joy of giving, and those who receive our gifts will know that someone, somewhere cares enough to invest in their future. These gifts are life giving!!!

Our thanks to all who participated in this ministry. It is a wonderful way to celebrate God’s gift to us in the birth of His son Jesus. What a blessing this is for all of us. Merry Christmas!

—*Dave Dynneson, chair of the Service & Mission Committee*

## Thank You from Cornerstone



Peace received a letter of thanks from Courtney Poja, Cornerstone’s Director of

Advancement for our gift of \$1,000 on October 25, 2023.

Cornerstone serves victims and survivors of domestic violence, crime, human trafficking, and sexual violence.

Cornerstone’s compassionate and comprehensive crisis support and shelter are available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week to anyone in imminent danger and also hosts the Minnesota hotline for victims and survivors of violence and abuse.

Domestic violence, sexual violence and human trafficking

can be perpetrated by, and experienced by, people of all ages, identities, genders and orientations.

Their main office is located in Bloomington; additional locations are in Brooklyn Center and Minneapolis.



## “Making a Statement”

In April, our three, 8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation students will affirm their baptisms and officially become adult members in the church. But before they do so, they will do a “capstone” project and reflect on their own personal faith formation over the last few years.

We call it a Faith Statement, and it is an opportunity for the students to express their faith, reflect on the people and experiences that have helped shape it, and think seriously about how their faith impacts their life and future.

Having spent nearly three years studying the Bible and gaining a better understanding of their Christian faith, the project gives the Confirmands the chance to give voice to their own beliefs, discern how they can live out their faith in daily life, and think seriously about how they engage in growing a community that nurtures a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

One part of the project asks the students to express their faith in a creative way. Some students write songs, poems, or essays; others make videos; some paint or construct photo collages; some have even made their own website!

The second part of the project asks students to respond to the following questions, among others:

- If you were talking with someone who had never heard of Jesus before, or wasn't very familiar with Christianity, how would you describe Jesus and his significance to your faith?
- What does your faith mean to you? How do you live out your faith in daily life?
- What do you personally believe about God, faith, and life?

And so as we enter into the season of Lent, I offer you two invitations:

- First, I invite you to consider these questions for yourself. Lent is a time for us to take a step back and assess our relationships with God and the world. Seriously pondering these questions might significantly impact your faith formation.
- Second, I invite you to go out of your way to offer a word of kindness or encouragement to someone in the younger generations of our congregation, especially our

middle school and high school students. As they process their faith, what it means to be a Christian, and what it means to be a part of a faith community, they need to know that they are valued, that people care about them, and that they belong here. They need you to make a statement!

These two invitations are excellent faith practices for your Lenten journey, and they will make a big difference in your life and the lives of those you reach out to as well. Thank you in advance for proclaiming the Good News!

Grace and Peace,  
*Pastor Joe Orner*



## Children's Ministry

On February 4<sup>th</sup>, we had the joy of celebrating elementary-aged students and their families who recently completed their communion education class here at Peace.

These students learned about the Last Supper—the special meal of bread and wine shared with his disciples—and how the sacrament of communion is done in remembrance of Jesus Christ. Additionally, students came away knowing that communion is all about the gift and promise of God's unconditional love and forgiveness—freely given for each and every one of us.

Please join us in recognizing: Ellie Anderson, Storer Cadman, Anja Rogers, and August Stender.

—Pastor Joe Orner



## Confirmation: Gustavus Retreat Preview

On February 24<sup>th</sup>, our Confirmation students will experience a day-long retreat at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter.

In correspondence to this year's theme, "God's Story, My Story," our day will be spent learning about how God's story doesn't have an ending—it's still being written through each and everyone one of us, by the power of the Holy Spirit. In addition to the learning, the students will enjoy a campus tour, games, the Gustavus cafeteria, a surprise activity, and more!

—Pastor Joe Orner



**February:** Bowling at Pinstripes (3849 Gallagher Drive, Edina) on Sunday, February 4, 1:00-2:00pm.

**March:** National Youth Gathering Pancake Fundraising Breakfast, on Sunday, March 17, 8:00am-12:00pm. (Prep: Saturday, March 16, 10:00-11:30am).

In March, there will also be a Broomball Tournament and the opportunity to defend our Golden Broom! Date/Time to be announced

**April:** Sunday Study Break at Starbucks (9250 Hennepin Town Road, Eden Prairie), Sunday, April 7, 1:00-2:00pm.

**May:** Mini Golf and Ice Cream, Sunday, May 19, 1:00-2:00pm at The Links at Dred Scott (10820 Bloomington Ferry Road, Bloomington).

# Summer Camps and Trips—Registration Closes February 15

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 20-23, Family Camp at Wilderness Canoe Base on the Gunflint Trail in the BWCA, 60 miles northwest of Grand Marais. Registration closes February 15.
- June 24-27, Vacation Bible School. For children from age 3.5 through 5th Grade.

Middle School, High School youth and adults are welcome as volunteers! Registration begins in April.

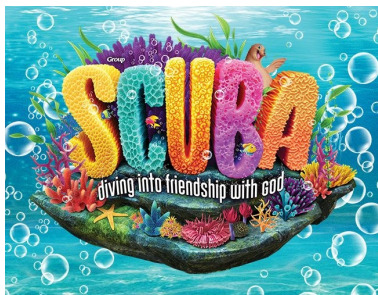
- July 15-20, ELCA Triennial National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA. For students currently in 8th-12th Grade. Registration has closed. Please consider supporting our students through their fundraising efforts. Turn to page 14 for more information!
- July 28-August 2, Camp Wapogasset Youth Camp in

Amery, WI. For youth who have completed 4th-8th Grades. Registration closes February 15.

- August 2-4, Seeds weekend at Camp Wapogasset for children who have completed 1st-3rd Grade. These children are invited to a weekend-long camp experience at Camp Wapo in Amery, WI. Registration closes February 15.
- Pastor Joe Orner

## Summer VBS

This summer during VBS, we will be diving into friendship with God with our theme, “Scuba!”



Together with our friends at Community of the Cross Lutheran Church, we will learn about how God is a friend who’s real, God is a friend who loves, God is a friend we can trust, God is a friend forever, and God is a friend for everyone. Those daily Bible Points will be experienced and reinforced through engaging Bible stories, exciting games, meaningful services projects, and memorable worship music.

And with VBS comes a big ask! In order to make the week possible, we will need many volunteers to provide wonderful hospitality and ministry to all of the kids joining us this year. Volunteer roles include crew leaders, station leaders (Bible Story, Imagination Station, Games, Service & Cinema), nursery leaders, registration and welcome squad, snack squad, setup squad, and tech squad. Please email [pastor.joe@peacebloomington.org](mailto:pastor.joe@peacebloomington.org) if you are interested or, sign up online when registration

opens. Your leadership makes a big difference in the lives of our young people!

—Pastor Joe Orner

**VBS Information**

**Ages:** For children ages 3.5 (potty-trained) through those entering 5th Grade in the fall.

**VBS Dates:** June 24-27, 2024, 9:00am-12:00pm.

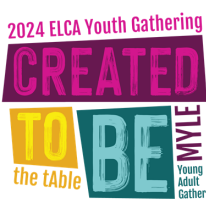
**Where:** At Community of the Cross Lutheran Church. (Peace will host again in 2025!)

**Cost:** To Be Announced.

**Registration:** Registration will open in April!

## ELCA Youth Gathering Fundraising

We are so excited that 8 Peace students will be attending this summer's ELCA National Youth Gathering, hosted in New Orleans. In addition to Pastor Joe and adult leader, Carter Mason, we will also be joined by a student and an adult leader from Community of the Cross Lutheran Church!



This year's theme is "Created to Be," based on Psalm 139:14 which

states, "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well."

Each day we'll dig deeper into the main theme, discovering together that:

- We are *created to be brave*, to show up with an open mind and heart, willing to be challenged.
- We are *created to be authentic*, to bring our whole selves and know that we are loved by our Creator.
- We are *created to be free*, to be transformed by the gospel.
- We are *created to be disruptive*, to work for justice for all our siblings.
- We are *created to be disciples*, to be sent out

into the world to love our neighbor just as we are loved by God.

To make this trip possible, we also need your help and investment. This spring our students will be raising funds to help lower the personal costs of the trip. In total, we are hoping to raise \$5,000.



On Sunday, March 17, the group will host a pancake brunch, and tickets will

be sold on March 3 and March 10. Every ticket goes directly to supporting our students.

Throughout those Sundays, you can also invest in our students and their faith by purchasing a Gathering Gift (think ELCA Good Gifts, but for the Gathering!). For example, your Gathering Gift donations will go toward snacks and meals for students, transportation costs for the group, room fees, and more. Every contribution makes a huge difference—thank you in advance for encouraging, empowering, and supporting our amazing students!

—Pastor Joe Orner

### **National Youth Gathering Pre-Trip Meetings:**

Sun. 2/18, 1:00-2:00pm  
Sun. 4/14, 11:00am-12:00pm  
Wed. 5/15, 6:00-7:00pm

### **Gathering Gifts (Sample List)**

- \$5 Feed a Student a Snack
- \$10 Feed a Student Breakfast
- \$15 Feed a Student Lunch
- \$15 Clothe a Student in a Gathering T-Shirt
- \$20 Feed 4 Students a Snack
- \$25 Provide Dinner for 1 Student
- \$30 Fun Activity for 1 student
- \$40 Feed the Group Snacks for a Day
- \$50 Feed a Student for a Day
- \$60 House a Student for a Night
- \$75 Cover Travel Expenses for 1 Day
- \$100 Feed the Group Breakfast
- \$120 House 2 Students Overnight
- \$120 Clothe the Group in Gathering T-Shirts
- \$150 Feed the Group Lunch
- \$240 House 4 Students for a Night
- \$250 Feed the Group Dinner
- \$300 House a Student for a Week
- \$350 Feed a Student for a Week
- \$375 Register a Student for the Youth Gathering
- \$450 Cover Travel Expenses for Week
- \$500 Fly a Student to the Gathering
- \$1,000 House the Group for 1 Night

# Spring Fellowship

## For Everyone

Date/Time	Event	Description
Fridays, 6:30-8:00pm	Pickleball	Join us Friday nights 6:30-8:00pm at Bloomington Jefferson High School in the Activity Center on Court #3. All skill levels welcome! We will play every Friday night through March 22, 2024. (No pickleball on March 1 and March 15.) Starting in mid/late April, assuming good spring weather, we'll resume playing outdoors at Westwood Park (3416 W. 108th Street, Bloomington).
Sunday, March 17, 8:30am-9:15am 10:30-11:30am	ELCA Youth Gathering Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser	Come one, come all for a pre- and post-worship pancake breakfast prepared and served by Peace youth who will be traveling to New Orleans this summer for the ELCA Youth Gathering! \$5/person; \$20/family

## For Families and Young Children

Date/Time	Event	Description
Sunday, February 25, 2:00-3:00pm, at Brookside Park	Winter Outdoor Fun	Let's get outside for some fresh air and fun at Brookside Park (10000 Xerxes Ave. S., Bloomington). Bring your skates and sleds! Sign up sheet at the information kiosk.  If there is little or no snow, we will instead go ice skating at Centennial Lakes Park (7499 France Ave S, Edina) or bowling at Pinstripes (3849 Gallagher Drive, Edina); same day, same time!
Sunday, March 17, 8:30am-9:15am 10:30-11:30am	Youth Service Trip Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser	Come one, come all for a pre- and post-worship pancake breakfast prepared and served by Peace youth who will be traveling to New Orleans this summer! \$5/person; \$20/family
Saturday, April 13, 9:15-11:15am	Family Service at Feed My Starving Children	Join us at FMSC as we pack meals (18732 Lake Drive East, Chanhassen). All ages welcome! Look for a sign up sheet in the narthex and in the Thursday CYF Blast.
Sunday, May 19, 11:00am-12:00pm	Nature Walk	We'll meet at Richardson Nature Center for a nature walk and discover how the earth is awakening in the spring. Look for sign up information later this spring.



## For 20 & 30 Somethings

Date/Time	Event	Description
Tuesday, February 6, 6:30pm	Trivia Night at Steel Toe Brewing	Come test your knowledge! Join us at Steel Toe Brewing (4848 West 35th Street, St Louis Park) for Trivia Night. RSVP to Pastor Joe at <a href="mailto:pastor.joe@peacebloomington.org">pastor.joe@peacebloomington.org</a> .
Sunday, March 3, 1:00pm	March Gathering	Join us a Hackamore Brewing Company (18651 Lake Drive East, Chanhassen) as we catchup with one another and check out their brews! RSVP to Pastor Joe at <a href="mailto:pastor.joe@peacebloomington.org">pastor.joe@peacebloomington.org</a> .
Saturday, April 13, 9:15am	Service Morning	20-30 Somethings, join Peace families for a morning of service as we pack meals at Feed My Starving Children (18732 Lake Drive East, Chanhassen ). RSVP to Pastor Joe or sign up in the narthex or online..
Wednesday, May 15, 6:30-8:30pm	Wooden Hill Trivia Night	Come test your knowledge! We'll meet at Wooden Hill Brewing Company (7421 Bush Lake Road, Edina ) for Trivia Night! Please RSVP to Pastor Joe at <a href="mailto:pastor.joe@peacebloomington.org">pastor.joe@peacebloomington.org</a> .

## For Adults 40+

Adults 40+ meet for coffee and conversation the third Saturday of each month at 10:00am at Peace. Our spring meeting dates will be February 17, March 16, April 20, and May 18. Questions? Please contact Cynthia Fossan at [cindikf@gmail.com](mailto:cindikf@gmail.com).

## For Older Adults (80+)

Date/Time	Event	Description
Thursday, March 21, 11:30am-1:00pm	Spring Has Sprung Luncheon at Peace	Join us for a spring luncheon at Peace (or "hoping-that-spring-will-come-soon" luncheon!)  <i>March can have unpredictable weather, but weather forecasting is quite accurate, we have set Tuesday, March 26, 11:30am as an alternate date should we be snowed out on the 21st.</i>  Volunteers are welcome. If you would like to assist with transportation, serving, or cleaning up, please contact Daina Sivanich in the church office.
Thursday, May 9, 11:30am-1:00pm	May Day Luncheon at Peace	Join us for a luncheon at Peace! It will a great way to see one another, welcome back our "snow birds," and get to know some newer Peace members. Wear white to celebrate May Day!  Volunteers are welcome. If you would like to assist with transportation, serving, or cleaning up, please contact Daina Sivanich in the church office.



# An Interview with Doris Earl



## The Early Years

Doris grew up in St. Cloud, in a family with four children and one tame duck!

We'll start in 1946. The war was over. Doris was 20 years old. As a young woman, she was out one evening with her girlfriend at The Bucket, a watering hole frequented by St. Cloud State and St. John's students. In walked three men one of which was Bob Earl, recently back from the Navy. He was neat and, to Doris, exuded quality characteristics. So began a long life of love for one another, faith, and...home building.

Bob drove Doris home that first evening and joined her the next morning at her church. They dated, they danced, and got to know one another well and in 1949 were married. They moved into a \$60/month apartment and both had jobs—Bob working at the post office and Doris as a secretary at Cream of Wheat. One day as Doris was riding in the elevator, a dentist whose practice was also in the building, poached Doris from Cream of Wheat! From then on, the rest of her working years were spent working for dentists in their offices.

## The Family and the Homebuilding Years

Bob and Doris had three children: Jeff born in 1953; Joanne in 1955 and Karilyn in 1958.

Doris said that Bob had an eye for good homebuilding site. Bob spotted a piece of property in Tyrol Hills (Golden Valley) and set to work building the family a home. After that Bob caught the building bug! They would build a home, find another site, sell the previous home, then rent a home until the next home was ready. All told, they built six houses and one lake home in Grand Rapids.

During one of their periods renting, they were in a home on Virginia Road here in Bloomington and came to worship at Peace with Pastor Kent Grosser presiding. Bob and Doris were highly involved in creating a small group neighborhood program at Peace called, "Shepherds."

Love lives on. When Bob died in March, 2021, they had been married a remarkable 73 years.

## How is God at work in your life right now?

God is in my life all the time! Whenever I do anything, I pray to him. In the morning, I thank him for being with me through the night. I pray for my children

and grandchildren. If I have a concern, I give it to God.

## How has your faith evolved over the years?

Doris shared a story of time when there was some family trouble. She was headed to Lakeville and right there, on a cloverleaf, she felt God tap her on shoulder and God said, "Don't worry, I'll take care of you." After that, Doris grew even closer to God. She reads devotions every morning and prays, and thanks God for her many blessings.

## What advice would you give a teenager?

Pray, and listen for an answer. The Lord does talk to you if you listen.

## What is your favorite song/hymn?

"One Day at a Time"

## What is your favorite thing about Peace Lutheran Church?

My favorites are Pastor Mark and Pastor Joe. They speak the truth.

—Daina Sivanich



## Annual Peace Congregational Meeting Elections

At our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2024 the following budget was approved and people elected. Copies of the annual report can be found at the information kiosk.

### 2024 Annual Budget

A proposed 2024 church budget of \$757,638 was approved.

### Church Council

The following people were elected to serve a three-year term on the Church Council: Josh Braband, Andy Loeffler, and Cindy Olson.

We thank outgoing council members Connor Myhre, Gayle Haugen, and Loey Nordsletten-Soderstrom for their service to Peace.

### Nominating Committee

Tyler Cadman and Rhonda Grunwald were elected to the Nominating Committee.

We thank outgoing Nominating Committee members: Adam Tschida, Connor Myhre, Gayle Haugen, Loey Nordsletten-Soderstrom, Justin Myhre, and Janet Pladson.

### Auditing Committee

Mark Lee was elected to the Auditing Committee. We thank Joni Murphy for her work on behalf of Peace.

Installation of the new council for 2024/2025 will be on Sunday, April 28 during worship.

## Life Passages

### Baptisms

- **Cameron Joseph Orner** baptized on December 31, 2023. Cameron is the son of Pastor Joe and Reilly Orner. Cameron's sponsors are Kim Bourassa and Amani Battle.

### Grieving

- The family and friends of **Karen Olson** upon her death on November 1, 2023.
- The family and friends of **Cindy Armstrong** on her death on November 9, 2023.
- **Tom Gilmore** upon the death of his mother, Joan Gilmore on December 25, 2023.

## New Member Orientation Date Announced

Peace welcomes new members!

On Sunday, February 11 at 11:45am, we will have a new member orientation. New members will be received in worship the following Sunday, February 18.

Please contact the church office at (952) 944-6510 to register for orientation.

## partners

Spring 2024

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On The Cover  
"Palm Sunday"  
Painting by Jen Norton

### 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.

## Devotion: *Hunger*

*“Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people.”—Mark 6:30-44*

In the congregations I have served that had late morning services, I could have sworn that I heard stomachs growling as we neared noon. At the time, I decided that sitting in church makes people hungry. But there might be more to it, too. We come to church because we are already hungry and hope to be fed. Together, hunger and hope make us human.

Most of us at Peace are among the fortunate few in the world who have enough food to eat three times each day, and so we can tend to take the blessing of food for granted. Most of the world’s people do not eat three times a day or even twice a day. When we lived in Egypt, I heard stories about riots. Riots about what? Not for fair elections, but for bread that people could afford.

The feeding of the 5,000 is the only miracle of Jesus that is reported in all four Gospels (and Mark tells it twice!). Why is this story told 5 times? Why did the early Christians draw pictures of the feeding of the 5,000 on the walls of the catacombs beneath Rome? It’s because we are always hungry,



*“Catacombs of Domitilla,”*  
Pontifical Commission for  
Sacred Archaeology

and God is always feeding us.

And we, in turn, feed others. That’s what Jesus told us, anyway. He tells the disciples (who always stand for us) to feed others. And since then, the church has become a distribution center of God’s blessings. The unbelieving emperor Julian was forced to admit, *“The godless Galileans feed not only their poor but ours also.”* 1500 years ago, the archbishop of Constantinople, John Chrysostom, bragged that his church was feeding 3,000 people a day! It is a way of life for the church.

It’s a way of life at Peace, too. Meals provided and made by those in Loaves & Fishes for our neighbors. A surprise Christmas dinner for African refugees in Cairo. And throughout this Lent, we will again be participating in *Minnesota FoodShare*, offering meals where everyone is welcome. And when we do, hunger is fed and hope is given.

What are the well-fed to do? The Lord says, *“You feed them.”* Not just at the Communion table but in places of hunger, need, and hopelessness. *“You feed them and I will feed you.”* In His name, let us keep on!

—Pastor Mark Nelson

## Staff and Contact Information

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**PEACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Website: [www.peacebloomington.org](http://www.peacebloomington.org)  
Sunday Worship: 9:30am



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

## 2024 Lenten and Easter Worship at Peace

### Ash Wednesday, February 14

Ash Wednesday Worship at 6:30pm

### Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 24, Worship at  
9:30am

Maundy Thursday, March 28, Worship at  
7:00pm

Good Friday, March 29, Worship at  
7:00pm

Easter Sunday, March 31, Worship at  
9:30am and at 11:15am

### Lenten Wednesdays,

February 21, 28,

March 6, 13, 20

Lenten Supper, 5:30-6:15pm

Worship, 6:30pm

Confirmation, 7:15pm

Peace Choir Rehearsal,  
7:15pm