

partners

Peace Lutheran Church

Summer, 2024



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

from the senior pastor

Just the Beginning!

I am writing this column for the summer newsletter at the end of the Easter season, the day of the “Ascension of Lord.” And as I think back to the wonderful music, Holy Week, the beautiful sanctuary, the gathered people of God, and the story of Jesus’s resurrection, it strikes me that it’s very easy to assume that the main part of the Biblical story ends with Easter. However, I would say that far from Easter being the end, it is really just the beginning.

It’s the beginning of the spread of the good news that love is stronger than hate and life is stronger than death. It’s the beginning of the message of hope that quickly spreads from Jerusalem to the four corners of the world. And it’s the beginning of the mission and ministry of the church, a mission and ministry that stretches from Jesus’ first-century disciples to Jesus’ 21st-century disciples here at Peace. What’s amazing about all these beginnings is that they were all accomplished through the words, witness, and work of a few dozen people empowered by the Holy Spirit.

That’s true! By the end of the story of Jesus told in the Gospels, there are about two dozen or so women and men who have followed Jesus through his ministry, who bailed out in fear during his crucifixion, who gathered in fear behind closed doors after his death, who were the first witnesses of the resurrection, and who were then sent to share the good news with everyone they met at Pentecost.

Think of that: if God used just a few dozen people to share the message of God’s love in Christ so far and wide that over the centuries it literally changed the world, what might God do with and through the hundreds of disciples who are members of Peace?

Sometimes it’s hard to imagine God working through ordinary people like us. Maybe you doubt that you’re faithful enough, or holy enough, for God to work through. But when you read the Bible, you soon realize that God only works through ordinary people with all kinds of faults and flaws, just like you and me. So, again,

what could God accomplish through you? And what could God accomplish through all of us together?

So let’s dream of the difference we can make together. Dream of what Peace might become as we invite friends and neighbors to share the life and fellowship we have found here. And dream of the difference we can make in Bloomington and elsewhere through our own words, witness, and work empowered by the Holy Spirit. What we thought was an ending at Easter, is really just a beginning. May it be so for us!

See you in church,

—*Pastor Mark Nelson*



Two Summer Sermon Series Announced

“Following Jesus in Mark’s Gospel”

June 2-July 7

“You are sound asleep and dreaming, when suddenly the door bursts open and a bright light shines full in your face. A voice, breaking in on your dream-world, shouts, ‘Wake up! Get up! You’ll be late!’ And without more ado, the speaker splashes your face with cold water to make the point. Time to stop dreaming and face the most important day of your life.”

So writes the Biblical scholar N.T. Wright about the opening verses of Mark’s Gospel. The Gospel of Mark is the shortest and earliest story about Jesus. It moves along quickly. Mark’s goal is to give us a sense of the new thing God is doing in Jesus Christ and then takes us along with the disciples as Jesus proclaims and lives out the “kingdom of God.” Join us on this journey of following Jesus!

—Pastor Mark Nelson

“Little People in the Bible

July 14-September 1

If you’ve had much to do with the Bible, you know the names of people like Paul and Peter and Mary and Sarah.

But the Bible is full of lesser-known characters. There are a bunch of people that don’t have a big part in the Bible story and they are far from perfect people. But one thing they have in common is that they played a part in God’s kingdom in their place and time. They are a good reminder to us all.

—Pastor Mark Nelson

2024 Synod Assembly Recap

On May 2-4, 2024, Pastor Mark and Pastor Joe along with Peace congregational delegate, Marcia Craig, attended the 2024 Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Ramsey, MN.



The annual assembly is a chance for representatives from across the synod’s 137 congregations to come together for worship, learning, business, and occasional elections. This

year’s assembly was unique in that it included an election for a new bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod. After the nomination process began in February, seven candidates remained on the ballot; five rounds of voting took place over the two days of the assembly.

Upon the election’s conclusion, the Bishop-Elect is Rev. Jen Nagel, who currently serves as the lead

pastor at University Lutheran Church of Hope in southeast Minneapolis. Bishop-Elect Nagel begins her new role on August 1.

Bishop Ann Svennungsen, who faithfully served our synod (and beyond!) for two six-year terms, will retire on July 31.

Please join us in prayer and thanksgiving for both of these outstanding leaders!

—Pastor Joe Orner



Seasonal Worship Guide

June

2	9	16	23	30
Second Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Third Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am
Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Joe Orner
Sermon Series: Following Jesus in Mark's Gospel				
Mark 2:23-3:6	Mark 3:20-35	Mark 4:26-34	Mark 4:35-41	Mark 5:21-43
Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
Sundae Sunday— Ice Cream for all!	Fellowship	Fellowship	Fellowship	Fellowship

July

7	14	21	28
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am
Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson
Sermon Series: Following Jesus in Mark's Gospel	Sermon Series: Little People in the Bible		
Mark 6:1-13	Readings to be announced		
Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
Fellowship	Fellowship	Fellowship	Fellowship

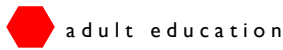
August

4	11	18	25
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am
Preacher: Pastor Joe Orner	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Joe Orner
Sermon Series: Little People in the Bible			
Readings to be announced			
Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
Fellowship	Fellowship	Fellowship	Fellowship

September

1
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am
Preacher: Pastor Joe Orner
Sermon Series: Little People in the Bible
Readings to be announced
Holy Communion
Fellowship

Save the Date!
Gathering Sunday
will be
Sunday, September 8!



Education Opportunity: “Powerful Tools for Caregivers”

“Powerful Tools for Caregivers” is an evidence-based curriculum developed in Portland, Oregon, and is a six-week class series. In this series, caregivers come together to help navigate the challenging world of caregiving.

This class will meet for six weeks. The course includes a Caregivers Helpbook. Caregivers will have the opportunity to bond, learn from one another, and are given tools through curricula

and the book that will help them:

- Reduce stress
- Improve self-confidence
- Manage time
- Set goals
- Solve problems
- Better communicate their feelings
- Locate helpful resources
- Make tough decisions

This class will be taught by Jennifer Monroe, MA, MPH, and executive Director of Normandale Center for Healing

and Wellness in Edina. Jennifer is a Master Trainer.

The dates for this class will be announced soon. We hope that if you are caregiver, that you can carve out a little time over six weeks to attend this valuable course.

Please sign up at the information kiosk. This class is free for Peace members to attend.

—*Pastor Mark Nelson*

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Women in the Bible

What was it like to be a woman in Biblical times? It depended on who you were: a queen, a judge, a first wife, a second wife, a widow, a slave, or some other kind of “ordinary” woman. In this study, we’ll look at some of the well-known women of the Bible, look at some who have been ignored, and look at women in the ministry of both Jesus and Paul—all with the hope of getting a fresh perspective on women in the Scriptures and helping all people to live into God’s kingdom.

We’ll meet Wednesdays this summer at 6:00pm. Every Wednesday; no class on Wednesday, July 3.

Come join us!

—*Pastor Mark Nelson*

School Year Memories

As we transition into summer, I think it's important to reflect on all of the wonderful ministry that occurred during the 2023-2024 school year—and there is so much to be grateful for!

There are a few special memories that come to mind from this spring semester too. For example, in February our Confirmation students took a retreat to Gustavus, where they grew in their faith and their relationships as they discussed how each of our stories are all a part of God's story. Then, in April, our three 8th grade students affirmed their baptismal promises in the Rite of Confirmation.

In March, our high school and middle school students participated in the annual Bloomington Broomball Tournament; while we weren't able to keep the Golden Broom trophy for another year, we still finished in third and had a ton of fun growing in community.

And then after Easter, about 30 Peace members across all ages came together to pack food at Feed My Starving Children for an intergenerational service event. It was so special to see everyone from their varying age demographics work together, united under a common goal, to glorify God through their service and make a difference in the lives of others.

And finally, as we turn the page into summer, I invite you to pray for everyone participating in Peace summer ministries, specifically:

- All our students and volunteers participating in this year's "Scuba" VBS June 24-27
- Everyone travelling to the Boundary Waters for Family Camp at Wilderness Canoe Base
- Our high school students travelling to New Orleans for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

- Our 1st-3rd grade students who will attend the Camp Wapogasset Seeds weekend
- Our 4th-8th graders attending Camp Wapo's Youth Camp

May God bless everyone involved in making these experiences so special, and may God use them to continue nurturing our love of God and service to others. Further, may each of you experience God's blessings in abundance during these summer months!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Joe Orner

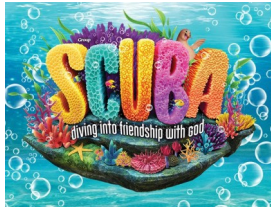


VBS Preview

June 24-27 | 9:00am-12:00pm

This summer at VBS, we are diving into friendship with God with our theme, “Scuba!” Together with our friends at Community of the Cross, 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 Bible stories, games, meaningful services projects, and memorable worship music.

If you missed the primary



registration deadline, but would still like your child to participate, please contact Pastor Joe as soon as possible.

Thank you to all of our middle school, high school, and adult volunteers who will be helping to lead VBS this year—this impactful and formational week wouldn’t be possible without you, and we are so grateful for your help! If you missed our volunteer registration deadline and would like to volunteer for VBS, please contact Pastor Joe immediately!

—Pastor Joe Orner

VBS Information

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

Ages: For children ages 4 (potty-trained) through those entering 5th Grade in the fall.

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

Cost: \$20/person with a cap of \$50/household.

Volunteer Training: Volunteers to attend one of two sessions: Tuesday, June 18, 7:30pm, or, Sunday, June 23, 10:45am. Both will be held at CCLC.

Leadership Recognition

Thank You Teachers & Leaders

On Sunday, May 12, 2024 we recognized and thanked our 2023/2024 Sunday School teachers, substitutes, confirmation and youth leaders, and music directors and accompanists.

Join us in thanking these individuals who worked so hard this past school year:

Teachers: Cecelia Byers, Marcia Craig, Emily Hanson, Mary Kautto, Robin Kennedy,

Michelle Stockinger, Kiya Losinski, Kael Marinero

Substitute Teachers: Claire Cadman, Kim Gehant, Katie Loeffler, Jason Losinski, Jeremy and Julia Macejkovic, Jason Rich, Emily Sidhom, Lauren Toppin, Jackie Waller, Bonnie Weseli, Julia Wiessner, Eli Betlock, Gavin Churchill, Kingston Fast, Parker Kennedy, Elsa and Sofia Oman, Evie Stockinger

Confirmation Leaders: Ryan Byers, Carter Mason

High School and 20-30 Somethings Co-Leader: Carter Mason

Music: Marcia Craig, Ben Hanson, Bruce Hudson

Nursery Attendants: Maggie Garborg, Emily Hanson, Kris Holm, Elsa Oman, Sofia Oman, Daina Sivanich, Michelle Stockinger, Angela Tschida, Lori Thomson, Julia Wiessner



Confirmation

One of the great joys of ministry is celebrating meaningful moments and milestones with people. One of those moments is the Rite of Confirmation for our 8th grade students—and on April 21st, we got to celebrate with Eli Betlock, Kingston Fast, and Sofia Oman as they completed our Confirmation program and made public affirmation of the promises God made to them in baptism. Having embraced the promises and love of God, and taking the responsibilities of faith to heart, each of them are now an adult member of our congregation. Join us in celebrating them—and continuing to support them as they enter into high school this fall!



L to R: Pastor Mark Nelson, Eli Betlock, Kingston Fast, Sofia Oman, Pastor Joe Orner

—Pastor Joe Orner

High School Graduates

As the school year ends, we celebrate our high school graduates in the Class of 2024:

Gavin Churchill, Ben Davis, Bianca Gehant, Parker Kennedy, Adam Rich.

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

Here's a brief summary of what each of them will be up to this fall:

Gavin Churchill will be attending Iowa State University, where he plans to study Culinary Food Science.

Ben Davis will be attending the University of Minnesota and hopes to study Digital

Entertainment or Computer Engineering.

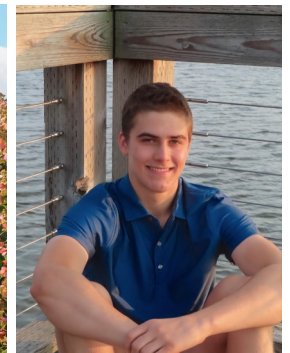
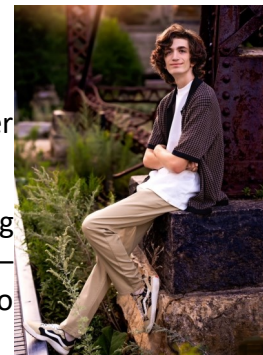
Bianca Gehant will be attending the University of Wisconsin – Stout, where she intends to study Environmental Sciences.

Parker Kennedy plans to attend to University of Minnesota – Duluth, where he will pursue a degree in business.

Adam Rich is considering Hennepin Technical College and discerning a study of Facilities Maintenance and Management or Film/TV Videography.

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

—Pastor Joe Orner



ELCA National Youth Gathering

Gathering Gifts Thank You

Thank you to everyone for your support of our students—your gifts of prayer and financial donations completely blew us away, and we are so grateful for your generosity.

Earlier this year, our group set a high goal of raising \$5,000 for our trip this summer to New Orleans for the ELCA National Youth Gathering. Not only did you all help us to meet that goal, but we exceeded it!

I am reminded of our theme verse for this summer’s Youth Gathering: “I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works, that I know very

well” (Psalm139:14).

Praise God, who has worked through you, our congregation, to exemplify God’s wonderful works!

Because of your kindness and benevolence, the financial burden for our students and their families was decreased immensely, and it will open opportunities for our group to make the trip that much more amazing. In addition, it means the world to our students to know that there are so many people in our congregation who care for them and for their faith formation.

You have embodied what it means to be the Church, and you have shown them how the Holy Spirit can work through each of us, every day, through the kindness and generosity displayed through our words and actions. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you—we are so excited to share our experiences from this incredible adventure with you in just a few months!

In gratitude,

2024 Youth Gathering
Participants:
Pastor Joe, Carter, Kristin, Gavin, Jonah, Elsa, Teo, Evan, Sofia, Eli, Kiya

ELCA National Youth Gathering Preview

We are so excited that seven 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, the group will also be joined by a student and an adult leader from CCLC!

Each day we’ll dig deeper into the main theme, “Created to



Be” 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.

—Pastor Joe Orner



Service & Mission

Spotlight On...Loaves & Fishes



In this ongoing series, we highlight

an organization that Peace supports with your benevolence dollars through the Service & Mission Committee. In this issue we focus on Loaves & Fishes.

Why Does Peace Support Loaves & Fishes?

Loaves & Fishes' (L&F) mission is to provide healthy meals in areas where the need is greatest. Their vision is that all people regardless of socioeconomic, cultural, religious, or ethnic background deserve to meet their basic needs for food, dignity, and respect.

Their mission aligns with Peace's Service & Mission Committee who, on the congregation's behalf, serves in response to God's love to meet human needs.

What is Loaves & Fishes?

L&F started as a free meal program in 1982 with one dining site each in Minneapolis (St. Stephen's) and St. Paul (Dorothy Day Center). Today they provide thousands of meals daily across Minnesota, and are the largest open-to-the-public free meal program in the state.

While staying true to their core mission they have cultivated new initiatives:

- **Summer Food Service Program** is offered in conjunction with the Minnesota Department of Education. L&F opens additional dining sites in the summer to accommodate students while school is out of session.
- **Food Rescue Operation** rescues food from partnering restaurants, grocery stores, cafeterias, and businesses, to distribute and repurpose into nutritious meals.
- **Street Outreach** brings healthy, mobile meals to urban locations for those who cannot get to the dining sites, including people who are unsheltered, homeless, in transitional housing, or struggle with reliable transportation.
- **Farm For All** supplies fresh produce directly to people or to add into the meals L&F provides.
- **The HUB** enables meal groups to affordably obtain food using L&F's infrastructure and food inventory. Some meals are served to the public; others are served as part of a closed in-house meal service.
- **Advocacy:** L&F shares resources with guests

including referrals for transportation, housing, health plans, volunteering, etc.

How is Loaves & Fishes Supported/Funded?

87% of revenue is from in-kind contributions; 5% from individuals, 4% from foundations.

95% of expenses are directly related to programs. The remaining 5% are costs related to administration and fundraising.

How Is Peace Currently Involved and How Does Your Offering Help?

Each month the Peace community donates through your offering, approximately \$850 to prepare and distribute a meal through L&F. We serve the 3rd Tuesday of every month at Christ the King Luth. Church in Bloomington. Some evenings we serve 80 meals, sometimes 200 meals.

How Can You Get Involved?

L&F has not resumed serving meals onsite at many of the meal sites. Some, including Bloomington's site at Christ the King, are a hybrid site—people can choose to eat onsite or, drive up and take the meal out.

Continued on next page

Spotlight On...Loaves & Fishes

Continued from previous page

Due to most meals being take-away, we need far fewer Peace volunteers. While we don't need volunteers on the Peace evenings, many L&F sites still **do** need volunteers! L&F has a volunteer sign-up page on their website with available dates/times at all the Minnesota meal sites. The link is: www.loavesandfishesmn.org/volunteer. Individual meal sites are at the bottom of that webpage. If you, your friends, your family want to volunteer, please visit the L&F website and sign up for a date and time that works for you!

—*Daina Sivanich*

Lenten Service Project Recap: Minnesota FoodShare Campaign



A big shout out to all who helped make this year's collection of products and dollars for VEAP such a success! We were able to send a check for \$2,479.85 and fill their shelves with 528.4 pounds of most-needed items; take a look at the list! The volunteers who helped unload our cars were so appreciative!

On Tuesday, June 11th a Block Party will be held at VEAP headquarters in Bloomington (9600 Aldrich Avenue South, Bloomington) with food trucks and games from 4:00-7:00pm. Mark your calendars and enjoy the fun and fellowship!

—*Joanne Vance and Kris Holm,
Service & Mission Committee
Co-Chairs*

During Lent, Peace Members Donated to VEAP...

251 rolls of toilet paper
24 paper towel rolls
845 diapers (mostly baby, but one package of adult)
21 bottles of dishwashing liquid plus many handmade wash cloths
1,483 loads of laundry detergent
2 boxes of dryer sheets
25 bars of body soap
27 tubes toothpaste
11 toothbrushes
1, 6-pack of dental floss
4 antiperspirants
5 bottles of liquid hand soap
17 bottles of shampoo and/or conditioner
12 boxes of facial tissue
1 bottle of toilet bowl cleaner
55 food items
2 Birthday bags
Blank greeting cards
1 bag of paper bags!

VEAP Summer Challenges



VEAP is celebrating **50 Years** with monthly challenges throughout 2024. This summer's challenges will be:

- June - Most-Needed Items
- July - School Supplies
- August - Condiments and Spices

We will publish more information in the Sunday bulletin and in the Friday e-Note and post a sign on the collection bin in the narthex with more details about each month's challenge.

LWR Baby Care Kit Packing



The Service & Mission committee thanks all who helped pack baby kits for Lutheran World Relief on Sunday, April 28th. Together we bundled 146 kits which were taken to the LWR warehouse that week. We don't know where our kits will be sent but you can imagine the joy of mothers getting supplies to keep their children clean and warm.

Your generosity makes a difference!

—Joanne Vance and Kris Holm, Service & Mission Committee



Tapestry Thanks Peace



Tapestry is a bilingual and multicultural community of faith. Tapestry believes that we are transformed through our relationships and through the work of the Holy Spirit. They currently worship at Oak Grove Lutheran Church at 70th & Lyndale in Richfield.

Peace recently received a thank you note from their congregation's pastor, Melissa Gonzalez:

“We want to thank you very much for your mission support for Tapestry in 2023. We have been welcoming many new immigrants from Latin America to Minnesota and to the grace of God that we share through food, music, and education. We helped provide clothes, warm meals, English classes, and love for the neighbor in Christ Jesus with your contributions.

Bendiciones [Blessings],

Pastora Melissa Gonzalez



Summer Fellowship

For Everyone

Date/Time	Event	Description
Thursdays, 6:30-8:00pm	Pickleball	Come play pickleball on Thursday nights at Westwood Park (3416 West 108th Street, Bloomington). All skill levels welcome! Bring a chair and pickleball equipment or use Peace's racquets and balls. Come whenever you are able!
Friday, June 14, 10:00am-12:00pm	Let's Go Fishing on Lake Riley in Eden Prairie	Through an organization called Let's Go Fishing, we've reserved a pontoon boat for 12 people. As of this writing there are still 3 spots available. Sign up on Peace's website or at the information kiosk. Cost is \$5/person. Visit Peace's website for more information or see Lori Thomson.
Sunday, July 21, 2:00-4:00pm	American Swedish Institute and Lunch	We will go out for lunch (location TDB) and onto the American Swedish Institute to see their Summer Singers perform a new <i>a cappella</i> program inspired by Nordic and Indigenous celebrations of the summer solstice! We'll leave Peace at 12:15pm for a 12:30 lunch then be at the ASI until 4:00pm. Limit of 10. Sign up on Peace's website or on the sign-up sheet at the information kiosk this summer. Questions? Please contact Lori Thomson.
August—date to be announced	Wooden Hill Brewing Company	We'll have a tour of the brew pub, lunch and visiting. Stay tuned for an exact date and time.
Sunday, September 15, 10:45am	Dahlia Show at Bachman's and lunch at Patrick's Bakery, Edina	We'll have lunch at Patrick's Bakery inside Bachman's on Lyndale Ave. then attend the Dahlia Society Show right there at Bachman's. We'll leave Peace at 10:45am, view the flower show, have lunch at 12:30pm, and return to Peace by 2:00pm. The show is free and everyone is responsible for their own lunch. Sign up on Peace's website or on the sign-up sheet at the information kiosk later this summer.

For Middle and High School Youth

Date/Time	Event	Description
Monday, June 17, 10:00am	Mini-Golf and Scoops	6th-12th Graders, come play mini-golf at The Links at Dred Scott. Waterfalls, rocks, and obstacles make for challenging fun! Afterwards, we'll walk over to Scoops for a scoop or two! The cost to golf is \$11 for ages 12+. All costs to be paid individually. RSVP directly to Pastor Joe at pastor.joe@peacebloomington.org .

For Families and Young Children

Date/Time	Event	Description
Sunday, June 2, 10:30am	Sundae Sunday	Everyone is invited to the Parish Hall after worship to celebrate the end of the school year with ice cream sundaes! It's never too early in the day for ice cream! Thanks to the Children, Youth, and Family Committee for hosting this fun fellowship time!
Sunday, August 11, 1:00pm	Mini-Golf and Scoops	Join us for mini-golf at The Links at Dred Scott. It's 18 holes of mini golf with waterfalls, rocks, obstacles! Afterwards, we'll walk over to Scoops for a scoop or two! The cost to golf is \$11 for adults; \$9 for children under 12. All costs to be paid individually. Look for sign up information later this summer!

For 20 & 30 Somethings

Date/Time	Event	Description
Wednesday, June 12, 6:30pm	Trivia Night at Wooden Hill Brewing Co.	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 pastor.joe@peacebloomington.org .

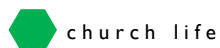
For Single Adults 65+ (New Small Group!)

A new Peace Senior Singles (65+) small group is forming. This will be a loose-knit group that will share, via emails or the like, potential group activities. We may take a walk around a nearby lake, go to happy hour at Kincaid's, or attend a production at the Bloomington Center for the Arts, etc. Feel free to invite others! For more information and/or to be added to the group's email list, please contact Gary Vig at gvig33@gmail.com.

For Older Adults (80+)

Date/Time	Event	Description
Thursday, July 11, 10:00am-1:00pm	Games and Light Lunch	Join us for lively games and a fellowship lunch on Thursday, July 11. We'll start with games at 10:00am; we'll switch around too so everyone has a chance to try their hand at various games. Peace will have decks of cards, a jigsaw puzzle, dominoes, to name a few. Have a mahjong set? Bring it along! After games, we'll break for a light lunch.
Thursday, August 8, 10:00am-1:00pm	Games and Grilling	We'll play games again on Thursday, August 8 followed by a grilled lunch. Cards, jigsaw puzzles, dominoes, etc.

Adult volunteers are welcome. If you would like to assist with transportation, games, serving, or cleaning up, please contact Daina Sivanich in the church office.



Meet the New Church Council Members

On Sunday, April 28 we installed newly elected Church Council members, Josh Braband, Andy Loeffler, and Cindy Olson. Read on to get to know each of them a little better.

What is one of your favorite things about Peace?

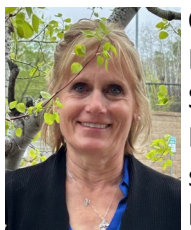


Josh Braband:
The quality of the music ministry.



Andy Loeffler:
There are many great things about Peace, but I really enjoy opportunities

that involve the whole family. Whether it is Sunday school, bingo night, family camp, or Trunk-or-Treat; I appreciate connecting with others while strengthening my faith and watching my kids' faith grow.



Cindy Olson: The Holden Evening Service during Lent. The music stirs my soul and I love the tradition.

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

JB: You should come visit! It's hard to explain how welcoming the Peace community is and all the different ways you can get involved. It is much better to just experience it.

AL: Peace has something for everyone. Come for a visit, talk to members, and check it out. Peace is a welcoming community made up of wonderful people – and there will be donuts!

CO: Peace has many opportunities to get involved and grow in your faith. Peace also has fun activities to get to know other members. The Pastors deliver great sermons and are very nice.

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

JB: I think the most noticeable way I have grown is a sense of community and attachment to the area. After moving to the Twin Cities area and having friends scattered around the Cities it is easy to not feel connected to a smaller more impactful community.

AL: Attending weekly worship and listening to the engaging message helps me grow. Also, adult education highlights relatable topics and the ability to discuss with other members.

Peace provides many opportunities to learn.

CO: I don't remember a time in my life I did not believe in God. I always knew about God, now I feel like I *know* God, not just know about God.

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

JB: An owl. Peace can seem unassuming at first but its strong presence can be seen in the world around it once you take notice.

AL: Golden retriever (welcoming, friendly, loyal and comforting)

CO: A fox. They are beautiful, independent, playful and fearless.

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

JB: In the ELW, "A Mighty Fortress." Not in the ELW, "When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder"

AL: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

CO: I have two favorite hymns! "You Are Mine" and "We Are Called."

Continued on next page

What is your favorite donut?

JB: Glazed with raspberry jam filling.

AL: Any donut with a warm cup of coffee.

CO: Truthfully, I have to admit...here goes....I don't care for donuts!

—Daina Sivanich

New Members

On Sunday, February 18, 2024, four new members joined Peace! Please welcome Monte and Evie Anderson and Kurt and Connie Schumann.



Monte and Evie Anderson



Kurt and Connie Schumann

In Memoriam: Dave Sawyer

Our brother in Christ, David Sawyer, died on April 21st at the age of 83 and his funeral service took place at Peace on May 3rd.

There are many things to say about David Sawyer. He was smart—very smart. Dave passed up a full scholarship to the University of Chicago to study physics and instead went to St. Olaf, where he earned a double major in English and Philosophy. He went on to the University of Nebraska to earn his Masters' and his doctorate in 17th Century Literature. His Ph.D. thesis? *"The Theme of Despair in the Poetry John Donne."* Not lightweight stuff!

Dave went on to teach English Literature and Composition at Lycoming University in Williamsport, Pennsylvania and taught later at Normandale and North Hennepin Community Colleges. That was Dave: always thoughtful, wondering, patiently explaining, helping others to understand.

He was not only smart, Dave was a husband to Sally for over 60 years and a father to Martha, Nate, and Mike. Dave loved family gatherings and there

would often be a moment when he would sidle up to Sally and proudly say, "Look! Look at what we did!" Sally and his family were the joy of Dave's life!

And Dave cared, not just for his family, but for others. For 32 years of sobriety until his death, Dave participated and led in Alcoholics Anonymous. There had been many along the way that were able to make it through another night because of Dave when nobody else noticed or cared.

Dave was a man of faith. He knew and he trusted that his comfort—*our comfort*—in life and in death, is not a straight "A" report card but in our faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. Dave loved the hymn, "O Day Full of Grace" and we sang it at his service. This was Dave's way of telling us that his hope wasn't based on his goodness; it was based on Christ's goodness and grace.

Thanks be to God for the gift of Dave. And thanks be to God who gives us all the victory through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

—Pastor Mark Nelson



Life Passages

Births

- Congratulations to **Holly Long** on the birth of her grandson, Callum David Long, born on March 12, 2024. Callum's parents are David and Cailin Long. Callum is also welcomed by sister, Hadley.
- Congratulations to Peace members, **Trevor and Ashley Winkelman** on the birth of their daughter, Maren Josephine Winkelman born on March 28, 2024. Maren is also welcomed by sister, Isla.
- Congratulations to **Jim and Anita Platt** on the birth of their grandson, Finley Petronovich Platt on April 30, 2024. Finley is the son of Erik and Katie Platt and he is also welcomed by brother, Thomas.

Weddings

- Congratulations to **Kari Cooper and Jack Brumback** who were married at Peace on Saturday, April 27, 2024.
- Our congratulations to **Tiffany Thalacker and Jordan Noltner** who were married on Saturday, May 4, 2024 in Mondovi, WI. Jordan is the son of Karen and John Noltner.
- Congratulations to Peace members, **Toni Davidson and Jason Vander Stelt** who were married at Peace on Saturday, May 25, 2024.

Grieving

- **Ray and Karen Larson** upon the death of Karen's father, Robert Tschida on February 15, 2024.
- The family and friends of **Virginia Johnson** upon her death on February 18, 2024 at the age of 103.
- **Dave and Nancy Dynneson** upon the death of Dave's brother, Philip Dynneson on February 19, 2024.
- **Dawn Alger** upon the death of her father, Dale Kain on February 22, 2024.
- The **Eide family**--Dave, Kathy, Sarah, John (Kristin)—upon the death of their son and brother, Zachary Sindt on March 1, 2024.
- **Sally Sawyer** upon the death of her husband, Dave Sawyer on April 21, 2024.
- **Tammy Devine and Michael Carlson** on the death of Tammy's sister, Kim Devine-Johnson on May 2, 2024.
- **John and Karen Noltner** on the death of Karen's father, Wally Weir on May 11, 2024.
- **Blake and Renee Erdahl** upon the death of Blake's father, Roger Erdahl on May 12, 2024.
- **Bruce and Julia Wiessner** on the death of Bruce's brother, Kurt Wiessner in May, 2024.

- **Carl and Susie Reinighaus and family** upon the death of Susie's mother, Sharon Schwarzbauer on May 28, 2024.

Milestone Birthdays

- **Vi Engquist** who turned 99 on April 23.
- **Doris Earl** who turned 98 on April 30.
- **Milt Lefebvre** who turned 100 on May 21.

partners

Summer 2024

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On The Cover
"Holy Ground"
Painting by Mike Moyers

Devotion: *Awe Breaks*

I love living in the city: the energy, the pace, the people. I love being able to walk to the grocery store or catch the light rail to the airport. I love the bustle of students near where we live by the University.

But there's a downside: I miss being by the ocean or in the mountains. For a few years now, we've headed to the beach for a few days in the winter. A day there consists of reading, walking, swimming, eating, reading some more, and some card games before bed. We spend most of the day outdoors.

I have found that one good way to begin a day at the ocean, or anywhere, is with a psalm or two. Psalm 136, for example: *"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. . . .who made the great lights, . . .the sun to rule over the day, . . .the moon and stars to rule over the night."* Here is how Stephen Mitchell rephrases Psalm 136: *"Give thanks to the unfathomable....whose miracles greet us every morning (A Book of Psalms: Selections Adapted from the Hebrew).*

As I write that sentence, I look out the window at the blooming trees with all the fresh shades of green in the spring, and the blue, blue sky. The cardinal flitting around the bush. The blooming

tulips. I just watched for maybe 10 minutes.....amazed, grateful.

In a past summer edition of *Weavings*, Gunilla Norris writes: *"Many of us are juggling so many things that we are run by our lives rather than living them as gifts from God. What if we could learn to stop for a moment many times a day? What if in those moments we could decide to notice the sheer miracle of being alive? We would then be taking awe breaks instead of coffee breaks."*

Yes, Jesus is *"image of the invisible God."* But earth—the beach, the mountains, and yes, even the city—is also crammed with heaven. The touch of the Creator is seen (incomplete yes; harsh, sometimes) in creation. God is present in the rhythms of the world, in the wonder of May, the vastness of a starry night, a 4-year-old's energy and curiosity, and the smile of a stranger on a city sidewalk.

Give thanks to the Lord, whose miracles greet us each morning.

—Pastor Mark Nelson



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2024 Vacation Bible School

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