

# partners

Peace Lutheran Church

Fall, 2024



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

from the senior pastor

# Where Two or Three Are Gathered

The decline of church attendance in America has been making headlines in recent years. This news doesn't really surprise me; I've seen it and been reading about it for years. My most recent reading gives two reasons for this decline: 1) a loss of cultural support for congregational life and 2) the increasingly busy lives we lead.

As for the first reason, it's not that we live in a culture that is hostile to Christianity, it's just kind of indifferent. For three centuries, leaders from Benjamin Franklin to Dwight David Eisenhower publicly encouraged people to go to church. But Sunday is no longer a time reserved for worship and rest for many in our culture. As for the second reason, we—particularly our children—are scheduled to the max, and that includes Sunday mornings. I was surprised last Sunday to hear from a grandparent that their children and grandchildren were not in church because of a birthday party—on Sunday morning at 11:00! Combine this kind of scheduling with the 24/7 availability of entertainment, information, and social

interaction of social media and the internet, and Sunday worship finds itself in competition for our time.

While Peace has felt these changes in ways that affect scheduling and attendance at worship and programs, we are holding our own. Why? Yes, we do have a tradition of meaningful worship, music, and preaching. But woven through all ministry is that Peace cares in growing relationships among people. Through activities and ministries like Loaves & Fishes, Older Adult gatherings, Bible Studies, Confirmation, and more, we intentionally provide opportunities for people to grow together in both friendship and faith.

These kinds of relationships have always been important, but never more so than in our current time. Authentic relationships matter! Martin Luther once declared that, "As for myself, I judge the loss of all one's possessions easier to bear than the loss of one faithful friend." Luther also believed that "the mutual conversation and consolation of the faithful"—what we might call Christian fellowship—was,

along with preaching and the sacraments, one of God's chief ways of manifesting grace and love.

So when you are pressed for time on a Sunday, or when the kids are sleepy from full schedules, or when you're wondering whether to drive over to church on a chilly October morning, keep in mind the life that Christian community and fellowship offers. More now than ever, we find comfort and courage in each other's company, and in this way bear witness to the truth of Jesus' promise, "for where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there." (*Matthew 18:20*)

—Pastor Mark Nelson



# Fall Sermon Theme

## The Gospel of Mark

This fall we return to Mark's Gospel. In some ways, its message is simple. In the very first verse of the very first chapter of Mark, we are clued in to the point of the story to follow: *"The beginning of the*

*good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God (1:1)."*

For the next 13 chapters we read about what Jesus Christ being the Son of God *means*.

Every Sunday this fall we'll hear something about what the Risen Christ means for us and for the world now.

—Pastor Mark Nelson

# Special Sunday Adult Education Series

## "Christian and Citizen"

On September 15th and 22nd, Peace welcomes back Rev. Dr. Chris Thomforde to speak in the Adult Education Hour on the topic, "Christian and Citizen."

Prior to his retirement, Pastor Thomforde served as President of Moravian College and Moravian Seminary in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; President of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota; President of



Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas; chaplain at Susquehanna University at Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania; served as assistant chaplain and instructor in Philosophy and Religion at Colgate University; and is an ordained ELCA pastor, and served at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Danville, New York. He also taught Western Languages and Medieval

European History and Tunghai University in Taiwan. He holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Princeton University, a Masters of Divinity degree from Yale University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree at Princeton University where he was also a two-time All-Ivy League selection in basketball.

Please join for these two sessions!

—Pastor Mark Nelson



# Seasonal Worship Guide

## September

1	8	15	22	29
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Gathering Sunday Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am
Sermon Series: Ordinary People In the Bible	The Gospel of Mark			
1 Timothy 4:11-16 Luke 2:41-51	James 2:1-10, 14-17 Mark 7:24-37	James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-38	James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37	James 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50
Holy Communion	Holy Communion, Peace Choir, Blessing of Sunday School Students & Teachers	Holy Communion, Peace Choir	Holy Communion, Peace Choir, Bibles for Toddlers and 3rd Graders	Holy Communion, Peace Choir
Fellowship	Gathering Sunday Fall Festival for All Ages	Adult Education, Sunday School	Adult Education, Sunday School	Adult Education, Sunday School

## October

6	13	20	27
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Reformation Sunday, 9:30am
The Gospel of Mark			
Genesis 2:18-24 Mark 10:2-16	Hebrews 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-31	Hebrews 5:1-10 Mark 10:35-45	Romans 3:19-28 John 8:31-36
Holy Communion, Peace Choir, Maren Winkleman Baptism	Holy Communion, Sunday School Singers, Peace Choir	Holy Communion, Peace Choir, New Members Received	Holy Communion, Peace Choir
Adult Education, Sunday School	Adult Education, Sunday School	Adult Education, Sunday School	Adult Education, Sunday School, Trunk or Treat (3:30pm)

# November

3	10	17	24
All Saints Sunday, 9:30am	Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30am	Christ the King, 9:30am
The Gospel of Mark			
Revelation 21:1-6a John 11:32-44	Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44	Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25 Mark 14:3-9	Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37
Holy Communion; Peace Choir	Holy Communion, Peace Choir	Holy Communion, Sunday School Singers, Peace Choir	Holy Communion, Peace Choir
Adult Education, Sunday School	Harvest Pack; Sunday School (late start)	Adult Education, Sunday School	Pie Fest and Fellowship Time, Sunday School



## Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 27, 3:30pm

Save the date! Plan to join us at this fun community event! Host a trunk, bring the kids trick or treating, or both! This event is fun for all ages! Look for sign up information this fall.



# Sunday Adult Education

## Sunday, September 8— Gathering Sunday

Join us for a Gathering Sunday Fall Festival! There will be food indoors and outdoors along with games and activities in the upper parking lot!



## Sunday, September 15

### **“Christian and Citizen,” Part 1**

Guest presenter Rev. Dr. Chris Thomforde. Please see page 3.

## Sunday, September 22

### **“Christian and Citizen,” Part 2**

Guest presenter Rev. Dr. Chris Thomforde.

Rev. Dr. Thomforde returns to conclude this two-part discussion. Please see page 3.

## Sunday, September 29

### **“How to Disagree with Respect—Not Hate”**

We will watch and discuss a TED talk from Spencer J. Cox, Republican governor of Utah. Mr. Cox says that even in these deeply polarized times, it's still possible to disagree without hate or contempt. He shows how this idea sparked a viral campaign ad that he co-created with his Democratic political opponent back in 2020 — and shares four practical things every one of us can do to heal the divides in our nations and neighborhoods.

## October 6

### **“Who is Mary Magdalene?”**

Recent fascinating discoveries in Biblical studies have revolutionized our thinking about

Jesus' disciple Mary and her stature in the early Church.

## October 13

### **“The Sacrament of Holy Communion”**

Jesus asked that his followers continue two actions when we gather: Holy Communion and Baptism. We call them “sacraments.” What is a sacrament? What is Holy Communion and why are there significant differences in understanding the meaning of Holy Communion among churches?

## October 20

Join us for a time of extended fellowship!

## October 27

### **“Who was Martin Luther?”**

Certainly the 16th century Augustinian monk Martin Luther is our namesake as Lutheran Christians but a strong case can be made that Martin Luther changed the face of Western culture. Who was Martin Luther, anyway and why

does he still matter?

## November 3

### **“What was the Reformation?”**

We're now past a half a millennium since the Protestant Reformation. Yet, we still live in its legacy. Why was it important? Why is the Reformation still important for us as 21st century Christians?

## November 10

No Adult Education. It's the annual Harvest Pack in the Parish Hall. Join in!

## November 17

### **“What is a Christian Steward?”**

God has given us all gifts and treasure to help further God's kingdom in the here and now. We are caretakers of those gifts. Join us for a discussion about stewardship.

## November 24

Join us for our annual Pie Fest and enjoy time in extended fellowship! If you are able, please bring a pie to share!

# Wednesday Evening Adult Bible Study

## Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00pm

This fall we offer a variety of Bible topics during Wednesday evening Bible study.

In September and early October, we'll revisit some of the great stories we first heard in Sunday School; among them Daniel in the lion's den, Noah and the flood, Jesus welcoming the little children. How we understand these stories now will look a bit different than when we first heard them. Join us for "Sunday School Stories for Adults."

In October, we'll shift our focus to the book of Psalms. In church, we often talk about the

great beliefs of the Christian faith: beliefs in Jesus, beliefs about resurrection, sin, and the cross. In this study, we turn to the emotions and feelings of faith. With some of the Psalms, we'll look how the human heart works—about fears, doubts, guilt, and grief.

As we move toward Advent and Christmas, we will—with the help of Paul and his letter to the Colossians—look at who Jesus is for us and for the world. Who is this one who came, and what did he come to do? We'll find out in Colossians!

—*Pastor Mark Nelson*

## Fall Wednesday Evening Adult Bible Study Topics

- September 11—Sunday School Stories for Adults
- September 18—Sunday School Stories for Adults
- September 25—Sunday School Stories for Adults
- October 2—Sunday School Stories for Adults
- October 9—Psalms: The Songs of Jesus
- October 16—Psalms: The Songs of Jesus
- October 23—Psalms: The Songs of Jesus
- October 30—Colossians
- November 6—Colossians
- November 13—Colossians
- November 20—Colossians
- November 27—*Thanksgiving break*



## Music

### Peace Choir Resumes Singing

Peace Choir rehearsal begins on Wednesday, September 4, 7:00-8:30pm in the sanctuary. Regular, weekly rehearsals will continue on Wednesdays at 7:00pm. The choir will participate in worship beginning Gathering Sunday, September 8 and each Sunday thereafter.

An open invitation to interested newcomers is extended to attend any and all rehearsals! No auditions required. Questions can be addressed to Bruce Hudson at [bdhudson@prodigy.net](mailto:bdhudson@prodigy.net).

—*Bruce Hudson*

# Youth Gathering Gratitude and Recap

Dear Peace,

Thank you so much for supporting our students and helping them to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July, where we learned about who we are “Created To Be”—Brave, Authentic, Free, Disruptive Disciples of God. Your financial and prayerful support made a big difference in helping to make the trip possible, and we had an unforgettable experience.

Together, our group of 8 students and 3 adults got to explore a new city and culture; build a better understanding of the ELCA, its ministry partners, and our theology; accompany others in service; and meet 16,000 new friends from around the U.S.

Here’s what our students had to say about the trip:

“One thing I love about New Orleans is all the wonderful people that make the city come to life. Everyone is so kind and welcoming, and the food is amazing. When we go to the gatherings at night, it always is so crazy seeing so many people just like us, and so many of them are from Minnesota, which I thought was really cool.”

“I loved the speakers and the music at the Mass Gathering each night. I’ve also enjoyed connecting with the group, and experiencing all these things alongside them!”



“[The trip] really helped me to believe that God loves me just as I am, and that I am fully welcome just as I am.”

“I always think about how to worship God and about having faith, but never about how to live out that faith, and I’m leaving New Orleans with a different perspective.”

“I took the message to heart that it is not worth it to try to be the same as others, or to try and compare yourself to others.”

And here are some words of gratitude for the congregation’s support:

“Thank you for giving me such a great opportunity. It will be one I remember for the rest of my life.”

“Thank you so much for making

this very educational and fun trip possible for me! I can’t say enough how much I appreciate your support.”

“I just want to thank them for thinking of us and being generous to help us get on this trip. It means a lot.”

“I had a blast, and the congregation’s support made it much more affordable to go. Thank you.”

“Thank you to the congregation for everything they contributed to us. We were able to enjoy great food and fun activities with their support.”

“Thank you for helping us go on this amazing and memorable trip!”

Thank you, Peace, for all you do to support, care for, and invest in the young people in our community. The blessings were abundant, and they will continue to multiply, thanks to your partnership in ministry.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Joe Orner





# Summer 2024 Was a Blast!

It was a great summer for Peace students and families!

Together we enjoyed Family Camp at Wilderness Canoe Base, Vacation Bible School with Community of the Cross, the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, Camp Wapo Youth Camp, and Camp Wapo Seeds.

At Wilderness Canoe Base, our group of students, parents, and grandparents experienced God in: the beauty of God’s Creation, the silence and stillness of nature, the laughter and playfulness of families being together, the resilience displayed during a tough afternoon paddle, and in the

kindness and hospitality of the WCB staff.

At Vacation Bible School, kids talked about their “God Sightings” everyday:

“Our Crew made sure that no one was left out or left behind.”

“Station Leaders helped us learn about God.”

“Everyone making cards for residents at Friendship Village.”

“We helped each other navigate the Games like God helps us navigate life.”

“Older kids helping younger kids when they felt scared or sad.”

In addition, Camp Wapo continues to be a place where students feel more open to being their true selves, where there’s a shared unified energy that’s centered around Jesus, and where discipleship and faith formation plant deep roots.

Thank you to everyone who participated! And as we prepare for the fall season, please prayerfully consider how you and your families might share in ministry with Peace as we continue “growing a community that nurtures a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.”

—Pastor Joe Orner



## Sunday School and Confirmation Youth Activity Registration

Registration for Sunday School and Confirmation for the 2024-2025 school year is open!

Registration is required for participation, and the online registration link can be found in the Thursday CYF Blast, in Pastor Mark's Friday e-note, or on Peace's website—[peacebloomington.org/2024-25-cyf-registrations/](http://peacebloomington.org/2024-25-cyf-registrations/)

Please sign up as soon as possible. Thank you!

## Sunday School Preview

### Sunday School Starts September 15th!

Sunday School is one of our best tools for growth and spiritual development for our youngest generations of Peace-goers. Through Sunday School, we're able to fulfill the promises we make as a community in baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to bring them the Word of God and the Holy Supper, to teach them the Lord's Prayer, and The Ten Commandments, to place in their hands the Holy Scriptures, and to nurture them in faith and prayer.

Our curriculum follows the Old Testament through the fall and the Gospels and New Testament through the winter and spring to build a firm foundation for their faith.

And through our Celebration Time singing in the sanctuary and lesson time in classrooms, children will both experience and gain a better understanding of God's love for them and the world.

—Pastor Joe Orner

### Sunday School Teachers

Are you interested in investing in the younger generations of Peace? We are seeking adults and students 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up to help our students grow in their faith through our Sunday School program!

We are asking teachers to commit to teaching at least two Sundays per month. There will be at least two adult leaders assigned to each room plus 1-2 assistants to provide greater flexibility and support. Have a busy schedule? We also need substitutes to serve as needed, when it works for you. If interested, please contact Pastor Joe at [pastor.joe@peacebloomington.org](mailto:pastor.joe@peacebloomington.org).

## CYF Thursday Blast

Have you seen the new, updated CYF Blast?

Thanks to the hard work of Daina Sivanich, the weekly "Children, Youth, and Family Blast" email, sent every Thursday, received a refreshing update to start off the new school year.

The new format is clear, convenient, and concise for your weekly reading and keeps you informed and updated about all your favorite CYF-related ministries! Subscribe today through our website!

# Confirmation Begins Wednesday, September 11th!

## Orientation Meeting Wednesday, September 4, 6:00pm

Confirmation is central to our congregation's mission of "Growing a community that nurtures a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ," and it gives middle school students the opportunity to strengthen our relationships to God and one another.

Throughout our three-year program, we hope Confirmation is a community for your student to question, challenge, celebrate, and experience all the amazing ways that God shows God's love for us.

This year's curriculum will explore what it means to be the "Church" by reading through the Bible with a special emphasis on the New Testament.

On September 4<sup>th</sup>, we invite parents and students to attend our mandatory Confirmation orientation at **6:00pm**. At orientation we will walk through this year's calendar and curriculum, discuss expectations for students and families, and answer your questions.

Confirmation will kickoff with a service night at Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassen from 6:45-8:45pm on Wednesday, September 11.

Our regular meetings at Peace will begin on Wednesday, September 18, from 6:30-7:30pm at Peace. All 6th-8th grade students (member and non-member) are encouraged to register!

—Pastor Joe Orner

# Trunk or Treat Invitation

## Sunday, October 27, 3:30pm

This October we will host our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Trunk or Treat! The event combines the fun of trick-or-treating with the familiarity of all of the people in our parking lot.

Instead of going from house to house at night, kids travel from car to car during the day to collect their candy. Each car's trunk is decorated, and trunk hosts pass out candy. Some

hosts even have a game or activity for the kids to enjoy!

This event has been a great community event over the last several years and a wonderful opportunity to extend welcome and hospitality to our neighborhood. And in order to provide the best experience and hospitality possible, we need your help!

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

—Pastor Joe Orner

## High School Preview

High School students can get excited for awesome monthly events throughout the year that can accommodate any busy schedule. There will be a mix of service projects, fun events, and fellowship time in our local community, and each will be an opportunity to grow spiritually, personally, and communally.—*Pastor Joe Orner*



### September

**Wednesday, September 11, 6:45-8:45pm**

Feed My Starving Children Meal Packing (18732 Lake Drive East, Chanhassen)

**Friday, September 27, 7:00-8:30pm**

Outdoor Movie Night at Peace in the parking lot

### October

**Sunday, October 6, 1:00-2:00pm**

Sunday Study Break  
Starbucks (9250 Hennepin Town Road, Eden Prairie)

**Wednesday, October 16-  
Sunday, October 20**

MEA Getaway, Detroit Lakes

### November

**Sunday, November 10, 10:30-11:45am**

Harvest Pack at Peace

**Sunday, November 10, 2:30-3:30pm**

WhirlyBall (2405 East Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington)



**Wednesday, October 16-  
Sunday, October 20**

**Detroit Lakes, MN**

**Attention 9-12 graders!**

MEA Getaway takes place over MEA Weekend and gives students from across the Twin Cities the opportunity to break routines and spend some quality time with some quality people.

The days are packed with wild fun, awesome games, a giant swing, and great food. Each night adults and students gather for singing, skits, and a message from a featured speaker.

More details to come!

—*Pastor Joe Orner*

## Nursery News

Did you know that Peace has a nursery in the lower level? It's perfect for children under the age of 5. Feel free to go downstairs with your child any time during worship. The service is broadcast in the nursery while your child plays with toys, puzzles, a play kitchen and workbench, reads books and more. There's even a pack 'n play if they need a short nap.

Starting Sunday, September 8, the nursery will be **staffed** from 9:30-11:45am. You may drop off your child anytime—whether before or during worship, or so that you can attend Sunday Adult Education. Pagers are available.

If you have young children, we hope this will make Sunday morning easier, more welcoming, and more accessible for you.

# Fall Fellowship



Join us for the **Minnesota Dahlia Society Show and lunch** at Patrick's Bakery on **Sunday, September 15 departing Peace at 10:45am**. Sign up at the information kiosk or online.



Everyone is invited to **movie night** outside under the stars on **Friday, September 27 at 7:00pm**. Hosted by the CYF Committee.



**Age 80+ Fall Luncheon** is planned for **Thursday, October 3, 11:30am**.



Be a part of **Trunk or Treat!** Host a trunk and/or bring kids to trick at treat on **Sunday, October 27 at 3:30pm**. (Trunk set up starts at 3:00pm.)



**Sunday Fellowship Pie Fest:** **Sunday, November 24** celebrate your pledge to support Peace and its ministries with a pie fest! Please bring a pie to share.



**Minute to Win It Game Night!** Join us for an intergenerational pizza and game night on **Friday, November 15, 6:00-7:30pm**. Hosted by the CYF Committee.



Three great fall fellowship events!  
**September 8, 1:00pm**, Wooden Hill Brewing Company.  
**October 6, 3:00pm**, Hackamore Brewing Company.  
**November 10, Harvest Pack** followed by **1:00pm** lunch at Fat Pants Brewing Co.

## Ongoing Fellowship

### **Tuesday Mornings at Peace**

On the **1st, 3rd, and occasional 5th Tuesday of the month, the quilters** will meet to stitch and sew. The Quilters will resume meeting on Tuesday, September 3, 10:00am.

On the **2nd and 4th Tuesday, 10:00am**, it's **Game Morning**, a new group for anyone to come and join! We'll play cards, games, etc. This group will start on Tuesday, September 10, 10:00am.

### **Book Group**

A new book group has formed at Peace! We'll meet **monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 6:45pm**. Contact Lori Thomson for more information.

### **Indoor Pickleball**

**Fridays starting October 4, 6:00-7:30pm** at Jefferson Activity Center, Court #4. (No pickleball on November 29.)

### **Yoga**

**Monday nights, 5:30pm**. The group will meet at the Normandale Lake Bandshell. If there is rain or temps under 60 degrees, yoga will meet at Peace in the front meeting room.

### **Single Adults 65+ Group**

This casual group for older singles enjoys getting out and going places! Contact Gary Vig at garyvig@yahoo.com or (952) 941-3877 for more information.

*Look for more information about each of these events on Peace's website, in the Sunday bulletin, or in the Friday e-Note and/or in the CYF Blast.*

*Sign up at the information kiosk or online this fall.*



# Service & Mission

## Spotlight On...Harvest Pack



In this regular feature, we highlight an organization that Peace supports

with your benevolence dollars through the Service & Mission Committee. This fall we focus on Harvest Pack.

### Why Does Peace Support Harvest Pack?

Harvest Pack's mission is simple: healthy food on every table. They envision a world where healthy food is accessible to everyone, regardless of where they were born or how much money they have; a world where people come together to help one another simply because it is the right thing to do.

Their mission aligns with Peace's Service & Mission Committee's mission: to serve and support both small and large-scale projects of local, national, and international ministries responding to human needs. We are the hands and feet of Christ and "doing" as Christ would have us do.

### What is Harvest Pack?

Founded in 2012, Harvest Pack is a 501 (c)(3) hunger relief organization. They address food insecurity by distributing the meals that we pack through local schools and food shelves including VEAP.

Hunger is a significant health risk and hunger related issues spill over into many aspects of life such as education, safety and mental health. According to the USDA, in 2020, approximately 50 million Americans suffered from food insecurity, including more than 17 million children in the U.S.. (Food insecurity defined by the USDA is "a household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food.")

Because Harvest Pack knows hunger impacts children more than others, they ensure that their meals are distributed to local schools. They partner with school counselors and backpack programs to put food on every student's table.

### Oatmeal Packs

Peace's meal packing event entails packing fortified instant oatmeal.

Food shelves communicated to Harvest Pack that they needed nutritious breakfasts so Harvest Pack formulated the most nutrient-rich oatmeal available. This oatmeal provides daily essential vitamins and minerals, is soy and GMO-free, flavorful, and comes in pouches with 8 servings each.

### How is Harvest Pack Supported/Funded?

In 2022, the latest tax reports available, 97% of revenue came from contributions, grants, meal packs, and packing events.

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

On Sunday, November 10, our congregation will once again put meals together for Harvest Pack. Last year your gifts allowed us to contribute \$4,500 toward ingredients and we packed 15,000 meals in about one hour.

Look for sign up information later this fall and come, be the hands and feet of Christ.

—Kris Holm, Service & Mission Committee Co-Chair

## VEAP Fall Challenges



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

- September - Personal Hygiene Items
- October - Most Needed Items
- November - Gluten Free Items

We will publish more information in the Sunday bulletin and in the Friday e-Note about each month's challenge. Please drop off your donations on Sundays, Wednesday evenings, or anytime during the work week. Donations are delivered weekly to VEAP.



### Service Sunday

### Oatmeal Food Packing

Sunday,  
November 10

Immediately following  
worship in the Parish  
Hall

## Staff and Contact Information

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## partners

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On The Cover

Untitled photograph by

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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.



## An Interview with Dave Dynneson

In this issue of *Partners*, we have the privilege of telling Dave Dynneson's story... a story about the military, war, and faith.



Born in Sidney, MT, in 1945, a twin with three older brothers, Dave "escaped" the dairy farm and went to Dana College in Blair, NE, graduating with a business degree in 1966. After college, his military "deferred" status changed to "draftable" and he was given two weeks to find a service. He joined the Army under the College-Opt plan and after 10-months of training was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant of Infantry.

His first assignment was as a Training Officer at Ft. Lewis, WA, training recruits as he had been trained a year earlier. This was followed by the formation of a battalion destined for Vietnam. He was given a platoon of 43 men to train and lead.

On April 8, 1968, Dave and his soldiers boarded a plane bound for Vietnam. After a few weeks of in-country training, Dave recalled his first encounter with the enemy. "It was night, and

we had just finished digging in when we started taking fire. I was scared, and hugged the ground, thinking my buttons were awfully thick. Moments later, my CO came on the radio, and 'calmly'

told me to move my platoon to the flank of the enemy and then pour on the fire. He had never been that calm in training; it really jolted me. I quickly did as he said, as we had been trained to do, and we survived."

"On June 3, 1968, my former platoon came under a very heavy attack by the NVA. I was in the Command and Control helicopter with my Battalion Commander, circling overhead, and listening as the battle raged. Led by my former Platoon Sergeant, they were in the thick of it, and I was stuck in that helicopter, unable to help. I begged to be let down to lead my platoon, but the CO said he needed me more where I was. That day four of my men were killed. It was the longest day of my life."

Later that summer, Dave got his platoon back after his replacement was killed in action. On his first night back,

his platoon was hit with a mortar attack and he was slightly wounded. Not wanting to lose his platoon again, his medic patched him up. Three months later, he and four of his men sustained "million dollar wounds" and were evacuated to Japan. For that, he was awarded the Purple Heart. He had taken 43 men to Vietnam; 12 remained after he was wounded....1968.

"In June, 1970 my service obligation was up and I left the Army, getting a job with Dun & Bradstreet in Denver. Seven months later, I received a 3 x 5 card in the mail stating the Army was having a Selective Recall to Active Duty and would I be interested. By then, I knew I didn't like what I was doing with D&B, so I put an X in the box saying I was interested and two months later got orders for Fort Riley, KS. As I left D&B I finally had enough nerve to ask my future wife for a date. She figured, what the heck...a free meal. I figured, if she said no, I would never have to see her again. Fortunately, she said yes, and 2 ½ years later we were married."

After returning to the Army, and assignments both stateside and in Europe—including a 3-year tour in the Pentagon where both he and Nancy worked—



they eventually retired to California after 26 years and 18 days. He started as a Private and finished as a full Colonel.

Dave says, "From Officer Candidate School on, I never doubted God's hand in my life and His guardian angels. I survived Vietnam in 1968, the bloodiest year of the war, when 87% of my fellow platoon leaders were either killed or severely wounded. During my career I went down in three helicopter crashes, but never got a scratch. None of that was by chance or accident. Jesus walked with me then, and still does now. I was spared, and I know it. I have a deep sense of obligation to serve Him and do what my fellow soldiers never got the chance to do...live a life worthy of being spared. It's my daily prayer. Some days I fail miserably, but I have those moments where I know, he has let me be His hands and feet, and those are worth all the times where I fail."

Dave's faith runs deep and he employs Christian practices daily. He and Nancy attend church weekly as well as Wednesday Bible studies. They walk 1 ½ miles each morning using that time to pray. ("A past choir director taught us to use our dog walking time as prayer time...it's a great way to start the day.")

Some of the important lessons that Dave has learned are that "Jesus is always with me, even when I forget. In my impatience, I sometimes think **He** needs **my** help so I jump ahead with my solutions. The truth is, He really doesn't need my help and His timing is always better than mine. God gives me daily opportunities to serve Him and puts people...and dogs...in my path to cheer me on. I just need to listen, and then DO!"

What advice would Dave share with our youth? Find an occupation that allows you to serve; be in service to others. Don't waste a minute doing what doesn't fit you. God gave you incredible skills and abilities. Use them in service to Him. Ask for His guidance every morning. Life is short. Don't waste it.

And last, what is Dave's favorite hymn? "Be Still My Soul" sung to melody, *Finlandia*.

Serving God, our country, and those in need is Dave's calling and you can see that in Dave's actions right here at Peace. Our humble and gracious Dave reminded me, "Please don't make me out to be any kind of hero. The only hero in my stories is God. Jesus is my hero and I owe Him my life....no exaggeration."

—Daina Sivanich and Dave Dynneson

Dave has written down some of his Vietnam War experiences. If you would like to read Dave's story, visit Peace's website--- <https://peacebloomington.org/dave-dynneson-story/>



*Lt. Dynneson at a cement factory*



*On the boat*



# Life Passages

## Births

- **Greta and Marit Myhre Grace** born on July 12, 2024 to Sam Grace and Megan Myhre Grace. Greta and Marit are also welcomed by brother, Emmett, grandparents Justin and Kim Myhre, and aunt and uncles, Connor Myhre and Alyssa Welle, and Tanner Myhre.

## Baptisms

- **Isla Cate Maland** baptized on Saturday, June 1, 2024 at Peace. Isla is the daughter of Micah and Sophie Maland, granddaughter of Beth Maland, and niece/cousin to Logan and Kari Rogers and family. Isla's sponsors are Jake and Kaleigh McGhee.
- **Sylvie Sharon Johnson** baptized on Sunday, June 23, 2024 at Peace. Sylvie is the daughter of Kevin Johnson and Courtney Farland-Johnson. Sylvie's sponsors are Bryan and Laura Johnson.

## Grieving

- **Harold and Carol Conradi** upon the death of Carol's sister, Donna Weeldreyer on May 31, 2024.
- **Jim and Anita Platt** on the death of Anita's father, Iver Lalim on July 23, 2024.
- **Ray and Karen Larson** and family on the death of Karen's mother, Corrine Thielen on August 1, 2024.
- **Linda Glasgow** upon the death of her husband, Rick on August 20, 2024.

## Milestones

- Congratulations to **Muneeza Saifie** who passed her U.S. citizenship test on Monday, June 3.
- **Birthday wishes to Lee Truhlar** who turned 99 on July 4.
- **Congratulations to Caroline Stockinger** who affirmed her baptism on Sunday, July 28, 2024.

## New Member Orientation

Peace welcomes new members!

On Sunday, October 6 at 11:45am we will host an orientation session. It's a great way to learn more about Peace, it's resources, and meet other new members. New members will be received in worship on Sunday, October 20. We strongly encourage you to attend both the orientation and the worship service.

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

## Devotion: *Climbing Trees*

*“Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way.”*

*(Luke 19:1-4)*

This story doesn't tell us if Zacchaeus climbed trees often. It just says Jesus was coming, the streets were mobbed, Zacchaeus was short and didn't want to miss out, so he climbed a tree. Maybe no one spotted him, Zacchaeus the tax collector, up there in his sycamore tree. Or maybe they did and laughed and pointed at him.

Jesus didn't laugh, though. He looked up through the branches at the man peering down at him and told Zacchaeus to come down.

*“Besides,”* Jesus said, *“you've got dinner plans, Zacchaeus. I'm coming to your house, and salvation is too.”* Zacchaeus had a change of heart that day and his life, presumably, was never quite the same.

We could rejoice at that and stop here. Unless this isn't so much a story as an invitation, and we're supposed to join him up there. Maybe up a tree with Zacchaeus is exactly where we need to be right now or need to be willing to go. As people of faith, we spend our lives trying to see Jesus: in Scripture, in the world, in the people we live and work alongside. Trying to see Jesus, just like Zacchaeus.

And like him, we have to work for it, because Jesus is always on the move, passing through Jericho and the towns where we live and the stories we read in the Bible. We're told that *“where two or three are*

*gathered”* Jesus is in the midst of them, but in the church, it's usually a crowd, with one or two standing in front of us. We're trying to see Jesus, and we're too short, all of us. And sometimes we just leave it there. The meeting ended badly. The conversation broke down. I couldn't find the words. I couldn't get through. Will it always seem like this; like Jesus has disappeared?

But there are other days. And maybe we remember the problem isn't the people standing in front of us or the walls between us. It might be where we're standing, and if we stood somewhere else, we might see things differently—if we climbed a sycamore tree, for example. None of this tree-climbing would be necessary if Jesus were easy to see—in the Bible, in our lives, in one

another. But Zacchaeus is bold. There isn't anywhere he won't look. There isn't anything he won't climb to see Jesus.

Maybe Zacchaeus is on to something. What if we were to approach every story in the Bible, every conversation, every relationship, with that sort of boldness as a gift the Risen Christ has to offer? Jesus looks up, calls us down from the tree, and then comes over for dinner. Jesus invites himself into our homes and unfinished conversations, to sit down and break bread and shed light on what we might not see. He brings salvation to our homes—to us.

The church is a good place to practice this every time we gather. And what is each new day, if not a chance to climb a lot of trees?

—Pastor Mark Nelson



*“Jesus Sees the Publican Zacchaeus,”*

Mary Evans Picture Library

**PEACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Sunday Worship: 9:30am



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

# Gathering Sunday September 8, 2024

**Worship - 9:30am**

**Fall Festival for all ages starts  
immediately after worship. Join  
us in the Parish Hall and  
outdoors in the upper parking  
lot for food, games, and  
activities!**

