p a r t n e r s

Peace Lutheran Church

Fall, 2026



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

A Note About this Fall Issue

Dear Readers,

After many years of using Microsoft Publisher to produce Peace's *Partners* newsletter, Sunday bulletin, brochures, signs, etc, the Peace staff have found ourselves now with a product that is being retired and will not be supported. No one likes to read those words!

With this issue we debut the use of Adobe Express for creating *Partners*. All in all, we will keep the same type of format. Adobe Express is a rich tool with many capabilities and we're excited to experiment!

We look forward to new ways of presenting our quarterly newsletter and keeping you up to date on what has recently taken place and what to plan for in the coming months.

--Daina Sivanich, Communications Specialist

In This Issue

3
A Message from Pastor Anne Schaefer

4-5
Fall Worship Schedule

6
Gathering Sunday

7
Sunday Adult Education

8-13
Children, Youth and Family News

14-16
Service & Mission

17-19
Fellowship

20
Church Council News

21-22
Church Life

23
Farewell from Interim Pastor Jeff Engholm

A New Chapter Together

Dear Peace,

Well…here we go! It is such a joy to be writing to you as your new Senior Pastor. As I get ready to begin this new chapter with you, I'm feeling a pretty wonderful combination of gratitude and excitement!

I've spent the past twelve years serving in ministry, and one of the things those years have taught me is that ministry is, first and foremost, about relationships. Whether I'm preaching, teaching, visiting someone in the hospital, working with children and youth, or sitting around a table sharing a meal, some of the most important ministry happens when people know they are seen, heard, and valued.

And I love that part of ministry.

At the heart of what I believe is a pretty simple conviction: all people were made good and are deeply loved by God. Not because we have everything figured out. Not because we always get it right. Simply because we are God's beloved people. I think that is really good news, and I think it changes how we live.

My personal mission statement says it this way: "Grounded in the reality that all people were made good and are loved by God, I am a leader dedicated to encouraging people to actively engage in a two-way relationship with God by loving their neighbor and being the Church in all aspects of their lives."

It's a little wordier than "Love God. Love your neighbor. Be the Church." But that's essentially what I mean.

I believe church is about far more than what happens inside our building on Sunday morning. Worship matters. Scripture matters. The sacraments matter. Gathering around a table matters - especially if there is good food on that table. But all of those things are meant to send us back into the world as people who have encountered God's love and are ready to live it out.

And I believe God is already doing that at Peace.

I come to Peace believing that the Holy Spirit has been at work among you long before I arrived. My job is not to swoop in with a giant binder labeled "Everything Peace Should Do Now." (I promise I do not own that binder.) My hope is that we will listen well, build relationships, dream boldly, ask good questions, and remain open to where the Spirit is leading.

I also hope we will laugh a lot along the way.

I am excited to learn your stories, discover your gifts, preach Jesus, serve our neighbors, grow in faith together, and figure out what it means to be the Church - not just on Sunday mornings, but in all aspects of our lives.

There will be challenges. There always are. But I am confident that the glory of God will shine within our partnership, and I trust that the Holy Spirit has some wonderful things in store.

So, Peace, here we go!

I can't wait to see what God will do through us, among us, and beyond us.

With joy, anticipation, and a whole lot of gratitude,

--Pastor Anne Schaefer, Senior Pastor



Seasonal Worship Guide

September

06	13	20	27
Time after Pentecost	Time after Pentecost; Gathering Sunday	Time after Pentecost	Time after Pentecost
Matthew 18:15-20	Matthew 18:21-35	Matthew 20:1-16	Matthew 21:23-32
Holy Communion	Holy Communion; Peace Choir; Installation of Pastor Anne Schaefer	Holy Communion; Peace Choir; Blessing of Sunday School Children & Teachers	Holy Communion; Peace Choir; Bibles for 3rd Graders
Fellowship	Congregational Brunch, Committee and Small Group Fair in the sanctuary	Fellowship, Sunday Adult Education, Sunday School Starts	Fellowship, Committee and Small Group Fair Redux, Sunday School

October

04	11	18	25
Time after Pentecost	Time after Pentecost	Time after Pentecost	Reformation Sunday
Matthew 21:33-46	Matthew 22:1-14	Matthew 22:15-22	John 8:31-36
Holy Communion; Peace Choir	Holy Communion; Peace Choir	Holy Communion; Peace Choir	Holy Communion; Peace Choir
Fellowship, LWR Baby Care Kit Packing; Sunday School	Fellowship, Sunday Adult Education, Sunday School	Congregational Fall Festival for all!	Fellowship, Sunday Adult Education, Sunday School

Seasonal Worship Guide

November

01	08	15	22	29
All Saints Sunday	Time after Pentecost	Time after Pentecost	Christ the King; Last Sunday after Pentecost	First Sunday in Advent
Matthew 5:1-12	Matthew 25:1-13	Matthew 25:14-30	Matthew 25:31-46	To be announced
Holy Communion, Peace Choir	Holy Communion, Peace Choir	Holy Communion, Peace Choir	Holy Communion, Peace Choir	Holy Communion, Peace Choir
Fellowship, Sunday Adult Education, Sunday School	Harvest Pack, Sunday School	Fellowship, Sunday Adult Education, Sunday School	Pie Fest, Extended Fellowship, Sunday School	Congregational Advent Festival for all!

Gathering Sunday and Installation of Pastor Anne Schaefer

Sunday, September 13

Save the date! Please join us on Sunday, September 13, 2026 at 9:30am for Gathering Sunday and the Installation of our new Senior Pastor, Anne Schaefer. She will be installed by Pastor Jen Collins, an Assistant to the Bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod.

After worship, everyone is invited to stay for a celebratory congregational brunch!

In worship on this day, we'll ask everyone to complete the 2026-2027 Time and Talents form. We will have committee and small group representatives available during brunch for you to learn more about what they each do, answer questions, and sign you up to participate!



Sunday Adult Education

Sunday, September 13
Celebratory Brunch and Committee and Small Group Fair
Get ready for a morning of fun, food, and fellowship! During the service, Pastor Anne will be installed. Following the service there will be brunch for all and an opportunity to explore Committee and Small Group opportunities at Peace. Come join us for this wonderful morning!

Sunday, September 20
2027 National Youth Gathering Presentation
Join us for a presentation from the CYF Committee about the ELCA National Youth Gathering happening summer of 2027 right here in Minneapolis! You will hear about what it is and how our congregation can support the youth of Peace who will be taking part in this live-changing experience!

Sunday, September 27
Committee and Small Group Fair and Sign Up Opportunity
In case you missed Gathering Sunday, we are going to repeat the Committee and Small Group Fair during the Education Hour! Grab a donut and coffee then wander around the room and see what Peace's Committee and Small Groups have to offer and how you can participate.

Sunday, October 4
Baby Care Kit Packing and Fellowship
During the Education Hour there will be an opportunity to help pack baby care kits for Lutheran World Relief. Instructions will be given that morning. All are welcome to attend. This initiative will be led by the Service & Mission Committee. Tables will be set aside for fellowship!

Sunday, October 11
To be announced.

Sunday, October 18
Congregational Fall Festival
Join us for an exciting intergenerational morning of fall activities and fellowship.

Sunday, October 25, Reformation Sunday, and Sunday, November 1, All Saints Sunday
Guest speaker, Adam Boldnow, a recent Luther Seminary graduate will present a two-part seminar on a topic to be announced.

Sunday, November 8
Harvest Pack
Following worship, everyone is invited to pack food for Harvest Pack! Everyone is needed, young or old, we have a job for you! Our goal? 10,000 meals which should take about an hour. Meals packed are kept in our local community for organizations such as VEAP.

Sunday, November 15
Minnesota Aging Pathways information and 2027 Medicare Changes
Minnesota Aging Pathways helps older adults and caregivers connect to local services and supports, such as housing resources, health insurance, Medicare, financial assistance, long-term care planning, services in the community, and help at home. Minnesota Aging Pathways can help people plan for the future or solve a problem today. In the presentation by Deborah Buckingham we will get an introduction to Minnesota Aging Pathways and learn a bit about the changes to Medicare for 2027.

Sunday, November 22
Pie Fest and Fellowship
After worship, celebrate and give thanks with a pie fest during the Education Hour! If you are able, please bring a pie share!

Sunday, November 29
First Sunday in Advent
Congregational Advent Festival
Advent means “coming” and in this Advent season we prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ. Join us for this intergenerational festival. We will make advent wreaths and other crafts, play games, have delicious treats, and enjoy fellowship.


God loves us all.
RED
1
RED
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ORANGE
1



A RAINFOREST INSIDE OF PEACE

Vacation Bible School was fun, loud, and wet!

The weather was perfect, the food was great, and kids, of all ages, had a blast!

Our partnership with Community of the Cross Lutheran Church, along with St. John's in Mound, and St. John's in Lakeville made the planning and execution simple and community-building. We shared thoughts, ideas, supplies, and enthusiasm--the process helped to strengthen our ties in the community and the Synod.

We had 35 children from ages 3-11 participate, but that doesn't tell the whole story--we had eight adults on hand each day. They were the kitchen help, teachers, and general helpers. We had ten teenage helpers who helped teach, play, run technology, and serve food. We had a team of decorators for the set-up--our rooms were friendly, and our waterfall was the best in town! The building was full of life and fun each day!

A special thank you to Jenna Trenbeath, Children and Family Ministry Director at Community of the Cross along with our Peace teachers--Katie Loeffler, Robin Kennedy, and Ryan Byers. We couldn't do it without you!

--Marcia Craig, Sunday School (and VBS!) Programming Coordinator

Children, Youth, and Family News

Sunday School Begins September 20

Sunday School will begin this year on Sunday, September 20, at 10:45 right after a quick donut break! Our time together begins in the sanctuary with music and storytelling. We continue with classroom time downstairs--more on the lesson of the day, art projects, and games until 11:45am. Parents are invited to pickup their children outside of the classroom doors at 11:45am.

This year there will be two classes of learners:
1) Pre-school (ages 3, 4, 5) and Kindergarten
2) 1st though 5th Grade

This arrangement creates two classes of equal size. No one will be in a class of only a few children! If another class is needed, we have the teachers, materials and space to create a bonus classroom.

Our first several Sundays of this school year will be devoted to learning about Moses and the Israelites' journey from slavery to freedom including learning about the Ten Commandments.

In the latter part of the fall, we will be learning some of Jesus' parables along with preparations for the Christmas pageant.

Three special events for the whole congregation will take place on Sunday mornings this fall:

- Sunday, October 18, Fall Festival for All
- Sunday , November 29, The Advent Festival for All
- Sunday , December 20, The Annual Christmas Pageant

Please mark your calendars for these congregational events!

—Marcia Craig, Sunday School Programming Coordinator

New This Year!

Our first four weeks of Sunday School will be a bit different this fall. We will spend the time really digging into Moses and the Ten Commandments.

We are looking for some "specialists," meaning enthusiastic adults to help in the upper grade classroom. If you are interested in **helping** our teachers (you won't have to lead!) with an art project, science project, or other activities for only one Sunday, please speak to Marcia Craig or contact the Church Office.

It's Time to Register Your Children and Youth

We invite children in preschool (age 3) through 5th Grade to join us for Sunday School this fall! Members and non-members are welcome!

Sunday School combines faith formation and Sunday School Singers with lessons. Sunday School starts with Celebration Time. We sing, the lesson is introduced, we pray together then head to the lower level classrooms for lesson activities. Parents of preschoolers, you are welcome to join us and be in the classroom with your child until they become comfortable.

Register online at peacebloomington.org/2026-2027-cyf-registration or, click on the link in the Friday e-Notes. Children can join our free Sunday School program at any time during the year!

Confirmation Begins in September

Parents of 6th, 7th, and 8th Graders,

Thank you for keeping the promises you made at your child's baptism—promises to bring them to worship, to teach them the truths of our Christian faith, to nurture them in faith and prayer, and to help them grow in the Christian faith and life.

Through Confirmation, our students will be empowered and equipped to take on these responsibilities for themselves, while also embracing and affirming the promises of God's unconditional love for them. It's going to be a great journey ahead —may God bless us on our way!

On Wednesday, September 23rd, I invite you, parents and students, to attend our mandatory Confirmation orientation at 6:30pm. At orientation we will walk through this year's calendar and curriculum, discuss expectations for students and families, and answer your questions.

The following week. On Wednesday, September 30th, we will begin Confirmation class at 6:30pm!

—Pastor Anne Schaefer

Confirmation Registration

Register online at: **peacebloomington.org/2026-2027-cyf-registration**
or, click on the link in the Friday e-Notes.









2027 National Youth Gathering

Parent & Youth Information Session, Sunday, September 20

Peace is already preparing for the 2027 ELCA National Youth Gathering! The Youth Gathering takes place here in Minneapolis from Monday evening, June 28 to Friday afternoon, July 2, 2027. The days begin and end with worship at U.S. Bank Stadium and the between times are filled with **"IMAGINE MORE."**

IMAGINE MORE: Love, Grace, Welcome, Joy, Courage

Registration opens on October 21, 2026. We would like to register our participants as early as possible to ensure the best selection of hotels in downtown Minneapolis.

A non-refundable deposit of $250 and registration form will be due by Sunday, October 18, 2026.

The tentative cost based on three youth per hotel room, is $1,020 for the week covering registration, hotel, and meals. The deposit will be deducted from the total projected cost. Note, the cost may be reduced depending on fundraising efforts.

We can add people, at additional cost, until the closing registration date of March 17, 2027; although that may change the location of our hotel assignment.

Please prayfully consider this opportunity for your teens. Students currently in 8th grade through 12th grade are encouraged to attend! We will also need adult volunteers to be with our teens through the Youth Gathering. Please contact the Church Office or speak to Marcia Craig with questions.

Join us on **Sunday, September 20 during the Education Hour** to learn more. A breakout session with more information for families with eligible youth will follow the large group presentation.

--Marcia Craig, Sunday School Programming Coordinator



Note: The Young Adult Gathering schedule differs.

Join in on the Trunk or Treat Fun

Saturday, October 31, 10:30am

This October we will again host Trunk or Treat!

The event combines the fun of trick-or-treating with the ease of going from car to car.

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. We expect this to be one of our biggest outreach events of the year.

--Children, Youth and Family Committee





Service & Mission

A Busy Summer Serving and Helping Our Community

During the summer months, the Service & Mission Committee asked for help with some local projects, and once again the Peace community did not disappoint!

In June, we collected items to assemble Birthday Bags for VEAP. The VBS kids had a blast decorating and filling 65 Birthday Bags which were then delivered to VEAP for distribution. Plus, we collected enough ancillary items for another 60 Birthday Bags! Birthday Bags are always requested, and often not available for clients when they shop. Local children had a better birthday celebration because of you.

In July, a group of ten Peace members worked an afternoon shift at VEAP. I was part of this group and I was thrilled to see the behind-the-scenes work that happens at their organization.

We unpacked boxes, checked product for compliance, filled shelves and readied the area for the following day's work. I have such a better understanding of how the donations are prepared for clients. The onsite workers were SO helpful and friendly. After receiving feedback from the Peace members that volunteered, it looks like we will try to schedule some future dates to help out at VEAP.

Our August focus moved to collecting school supplies for Poplar Bridge. We received so many donated items, that we may bring some to the San Pablo Lutheran Church community in south Minneapolis as well. One of our Service & Mission Committee members received a Thrivent Grant to purchase school supplies, so we really are extending our generosity even further than originally planned.

Thank you so much for helping us support these great needs in our community! Peace does amazing work, and I am proud to be part of this place and all we accomplish together!

—Venita Ditlevson, Service & Mission Committee Member

Thank You from Every Meal

In June Peace received a letter of thanks from Every Meal (formerly The Sheridan Story).

They thanked Peace for our gift of $3,080.00 on May 21, 2026.

When children don't have enough to eat over the weekend, they arrive at school Monday morning unable to focus or fully engage in learning. Research confirms what educators see daily: students facing hunger are more likely to struggle academically and experience social and behavioral challenges that can have a lasting impact.

Thanks to your giving to Peace, our benevolence dollars can help fight childhood hunger.

VEAP Work Day

On July 30, 2026, ten Peace members worked a shift at VEAP. Peace is a faithful supporter of VEAP and some people wanted to learn more about how it operates. I don't think anyone was disappointed.

A staff member started us off with a little history and some facts about VEAP: Last year they celebrated 50 years serving Bloomington, Richfield and communities in the south metro.

Peace has focused our support on non-food items. VEAP cannot use grant money to buy toilet paper, toothpaste, diapers, shampoo, laundry detergent and other personal care items. They make a dollar go a long way when purchasing food; $1 donated makes it possible for them to buy $10 worth of food. Right now many people are bringing in produce from their gardens and the fresh corn, lettuce, herbs, green beans, zucchini, etc. is prized by VEAP guests.

Approximately 140-200 people shop at VEAP Monday-Thursday. That might be a person shopping for a family of five or a volunteer filling an order which will be delivered to someone at home.

We were put to work in two spots: some sorted and bagged apples, some sorted donated dry goods and after checking expiration dates, placed items in designated areas. At one point some took a cart to fill shelves where the guests shop. We were busy from 2:30 to 5:15pm but there is a break room with treats and volunteers are always welcome to take breaks

—Kris Holm, co-Chair, Service & Mission Committee







LWR Baby Care Kit Fall Packing Initiative

Sunday, October 4

After worship on Sunday, October 4 the Service & Mission Committee will be leading an effort to pack Baby Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief.

We'll assemble hats and sweaters or jackets, soap, diaper pins, socks, and a few other items all wrapped in a large receiving blanket. Truly a gift much appreciated by refugee families whether in the U.S. or another country.

If you would like to help with this initiative, please contact Kris Holm at ksholm1@gmail.com.

On packing day, feel free to join in or just have coffee and a donut and watch the packing!



Harvest Pack Returns!

Sunday, November 10

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

Harvest Pack is a non-profit organization that was founded in 2012. They address food insecurity through meal packing events then distribute that food to local communities.

Each year since 2018, our Parish Hall has been transformed.into a packing site for members of all ages to participate as we strive to pack 10,000 oatmeal meals in about 2 hours which are then distributed to residents in Bloomington and neighboring communities

This fall, our Harvest Pack is set for Sunday, November 8 starting at 10:30am. We'll need 100+ people to pack these meals and there is a job everyone from affixing labels, to adding ingredients, to sealing bags to boxing up meals.

It's fun, fast paced, and great for everyone to come together on a big project like this!

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

Fall Fellowship

Join in the fun!

Meet new people!

September

September, back to school, back to routines!

We invite you to join in the fun and meet some new people.

The Fellowship Committee has set up a great slate of fall fellowship activities ranging from lectures, to a cooking class, to performances. Browse these fellowship pages and sign up online on Peace's website, at the information kiosk, or by calling the Church Office.



Cover Lovers Concert
The Good, The Bad, and the Funky
Wednesday, September 9

Meet up with Peace friends for the final cover lovers outdoor cover band concert. It's free and for all ages! Bring your lawn chair and be prepared to walk.

The final concert will be The Good, the Bad, and the Funky at Hyland Hills' Music on the Hill. Doors open at 5:00pm, **concert starts at 7:00pm.**



A Special Gathering Sunday Installation of Pastor Anne Schaefer
Sunday, September 13, 2026

Join us for a special Gathering Sunday in the life of Peace. Not only will we gather again after summer, but we will install Pastor Anne Schaefer as our new Senior Pastor during worship.

Stay after worship for a celebratory brunch and meet Pastor Anne. All the committees and small groups at Peace will be available so you can get to know what each committee does, ask questions, and sign up to join!



Dahlia Flower Show & Lunch
Bachman's
Sunday, September 20, 2026

Join us for Minnesota Dahlia Society Show at Bachman's (6010 Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis) with lunch at Patrick's Bakery (inside Bachman's). We will leave Peace after worship at 10:30am, view the flower show and then have lunch and return to Peace by 2:00pm. The show is free and everyone is responsible for their own lunch.



Westminster Town Hall Forum
Sam Wang
"Gerrymandering and Election Integrity"
Thursday, September 24, 6:00pm

Sam Wang – one of the nation's leading experts on redistricting, representation, and election reform – will address gerrymandering and share his data-driven approach to building and repairing an American democracy that represents all. This event is free.

We will carpool from Peace at 5:00m. Doors open at 5:00pm, music 5:30pm, speaker 6:00-7:00pm.

Fall Fellowship
October

October is full of activity at Peace! Not only do we hope that you connected to a committee or small group to join, but here are a wide range of fellowship activities for all ages that you can join in this month.



A Play for All Ages

Peace has 20 tickets to the **Sunday, October 11, 2:00pm** play, "**You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown**" at Bloomington's Artistry Theatre.

Tickets are $53 each. We have great seats are in rows 4, 5, and 6! Sign up online or at the information kiosk.

Fall Older Adult Luncheon

Peace members ages 80+ are invited to a fall Older Adult luncheon on **Thursday, October 15, 11:30am here at Peace.**

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Daina Sivanich in the church office.



Fall Festival

Join us for a cozy fall festival and all things pumpkin on **Sunday, October 18 during the Education Hour!** We'll have fall treats and fall activities for all.



Corie Koskie, "Faith and Baseball: Life After the Twins"

Corey Koskie was a popular 3rd Baseman for the Minnesota Twins from 1998-2004.

On Thursday, October 22, we'll head to St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church in Plymouth to hear Corie talk about his faith and life after playing for the Twins. A carpool will leave Peace at 6:00pm. This event is free.

Timothy Snyder, "A Blueprint for Freedom"



Join us at another Westminster Town Hall Forum lecture feature author, Timothy Snyder. He will discuss responsibilities we are challenged with if democracy is to not only persist but flourish. Thursday, October 29. A carpool will leave Peace at 11:00am for downtown.



Bold and Bountiful Flavors of the Harvest Cooking Class

Sign up for this hands-on class on **Friday, October 30, 5:30pm** here at Peace. Led by award-winning and *Star Tribune* writer Beth Dooley.

Space for 12 participants. $70/person. Sign up online or at the information kiosk. Registration closes on Friday, October 9.

Trunk or Treat



Trunk or Treat returns on Saturday, October 31, 10:30am! Register your trunk by signing up online or at the information kiosk. Games, candy, awards! Join in the fun!

Fall Fellowship

November

November wraps up our fabulous fall at Peace! In November, we're having a fellowship dinner held at various Peace members homes plus there's another concert opportunity and fellowship in church.



Save the date for
Saturday, November 7th, 6:00pm for a Fall Adult Fellowship Dinner!

Peace Adults (21+), join fellow members for a fall dinner at members homes on Saturday, November 7th starting at 6:00pm.

We'll meet in groups of eight and enjoy a planned menu; each couple will bring one part of the dinner. If you are not part of a couple, sign up on your own or bring a friend!

A week before the dinner, those who RSVP will be sent a recipe for a menu item to make for the dinner. After the appetizer and entree, we'll all gather together in one person's home for dessert!

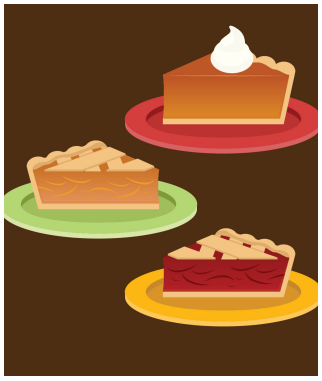
Later this fall, we'll announce the menu and provide sign up information. In addition, if you would like to be a host home, we'll ask you to indicate that.



The World According to Garth" Tribute Concert

This 90-minute tribute to Garth Brooks is unlike anything you have ever seen before. Incorporating state of the art lighting and effects such as thunder, lightning, fire and rain, coupled with Christopher Seebeck's spot-on Garth Brooks voice, precision mannerisms, his endless passion and energy that recreates all of the emotions you feel being in the audience at a Garth Brooks concert.

Peace has purchased 12 tickets for this concert at Chanhassen Dinner Theater's Fireside Theatre (concert only—no dinner). Tickets are $44 each. A carpool will leave from Peace at 6:30pm. Concert begins at 7:30pm. Please sign up online or at the information kiosk.



Annual Pie Fest

Thanksgiving is upon us and we all have much to be grateful for. So let's celebrate with...pie! Join us for extended fellowship time and a slice or two or three of pie on Sunday, November 22 during the Education Hour. If you are able, please bring a pie to share!

Church Council News

This has been a season of real milestones for our congregation, and this letter is meant to highlight what's been happening including some heartfelt thank-yous to those who carried us through our pastoral transition, and an exciting welcome to our new pastor.

Thank You, Pastor Jeff Engholm

On behalf of the entire congregation, the Church Council extends our deepest gratitude to Pastor Jeff Engholm, who faithfully served as our Interim Pastor this past year. Pastor Jeff stepped into a season of transition for our church family and led us with steady wisdom, compassion, and care. Whether through worship, pastoral visits, or simply being present for our members during a time of change, Pastor Jeff helped keep our congregation grounded and moving forward together. We are so thankful for his ministry among us and wish him well as he moves on to his next calling.

Thank You, Call Committee

We also want to recognize and thank the members of our Call Committee for their tireless dedication over the past year. This group volunteered countless hours reviewing candidate profiles, conducting interviews, praying over the decision, and keeping the congregation informed every step of the way. Their thoughtful, prayerful work has brought us to this exciting moment, and we are deeply grateful for their service to Peace Lutheran Church.

Welcoming Our New Pastor

Thanks to the hard work of the Call Committee, we are thrilled to announce that Pastor Anne Schaefer will begin serving Peace Lutheran Church on September 8! Please join us for her Installation Sunday on September 13, as we officially welcome her into ministry with our congregation. We are so excited for this new chapter, and we hope you'll be there to celebrate with us!

2026-2027 Church Council Members

Your Church Council members are as follows: Andy Loeffler (President), Michelle Stockinger (Vice President), Tom Tisthammer (Treasurer), Robin Kennedy (Secretary), Josh Braband, Cindy Olson, Steve Larson, Tammy Devine, and Ric Soderstrom.

We'd also like to thank everyone across the congregation who supported this process — whether through prayer, feedback, financial giving, or simply patience as we navigated this season together. A pastoral transition takes a village, and Peace Lutheran's village showed up.

Looking Ahead

With the Call Committee's work now complete and Pastor Anne Schaefer joining us on September 8, your Church Council looks forward to a season of renewed energy and shared mission at Peace Lutheran Church. Thank you for your continued patience, prayers, and generosity throughout this transition. We could not have reached this milestone without the support of this wonderful congregation.

We're grateful for this congregation and excited for what's ahead. Feel free to connect with any of us on the Council with your thoughts or questions.

Faithfully,

—Andy Loeffler, Peace Lutheran Church Council President



Racial Justice Committee Forming

With the support of the Church Council, and because as Lutherans, we are called into the work of racial justice, we are creating a Racial Justice Committee at Peace.

“Scripture calls us, as part of our Christian response, to walk in solidarity with people of color, because standing in silence sanctions continued injustice and violence.” – from the Minneapolis Area Synod Resolution Addressing Racial Injustice (RC2016-01).

Per Synod guidelines, three people are needed to co-lead this group. Peace already has two people signed up; one more person is needed at this time. Youth and young adults are encouraged to join this committee!

If you are interested in leading or want to learn more, please reach out to the church office or Michelle Stockinger (612-791-7970; michelle.stockinger@gmail.com).

Committee meetings will be on the first Wednesday of the month meeting at 6:00pm.

The fall meeting dates will be Wednesday, October 7, 6:00pm and Wednesday, November 11, 6:00pm.

Staff and Contact Information
(952) 944-6510 | www.peacebloomington.org

- Pastor Anne Schaefer--Senior Pastor, pastor.anne@peacebloomington.org
- Marcia Craig--Sunday School Programming Coordinator, marcia.craig@peacebloomington.org
- Lori Thomson--Administrator, lori.thomson@peacebloomington.org
- Daina Sivanich--Communications Specialist, daina.sivanich@peacebloomington.org
- Bruce Hudson--Director of Music, music@peacebloomington.org

Life Passages

Births

- Congratulations to **Alyssa Welle and Connor Myhre** on the birth of their daughter Astrid Lynn Myhre on August 4, 2026. Astrid is also welcomed by grandparents, Justin and Kim Myhre, uncle Tanner Myhre, aunt Meghan Myhre Grace, uncle Sam Grace, and cousins.

Weddings

- Congratulations to **Aileen Haas and Brian Sandness** on their wedding on Saturday, June 13 in Chicago. Brian is the son of Peace members, John and Jane Sandness.

Grieving

- The **Myhre family** upon the death of their nephew and cousin, Austin Roley.
- **Marilyn and Bob Wig** on the death of Marilyn's brother, Bob Berg.
- **Connie Schumann** upon the death of her mother, Claudine Alice Hansen on July 27, 2027.

Grief Support

Churches in Bloomington and Richfield provide education and support for adults who are grieving the death of a loved one.

The fall series will meet on **Thursdays, September 24-November 12, 2026, 4:30-6:00pm** at Christ the King Lutheran Church (8600 Fremont Avenue South, Bloomington).

Meetings start with a 30-minute educational topic presented by guest speakers who share their own experiences and professional knowledge on grief and loss.

The next hour is spent in small group conversation with the opportunity to share feelings and concerns with others who are also working through the grief process.

The information kiosk has brochures with the fall topics or visit Peace's website for more information. There is no cost to participate and no pre-registration needed. You may attend one week or all weeks.

partners

Fall 2026
Published quarterly by Peace Lutheran Church
8600 East Bush Lake Road
Bloomington, MN 55438
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www.peacebloomington.org

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Submissions
Do you have an idea for a story or would you like to write? Contact Daina Sivanich with your submission, but please keep in mind the following guidelines: (a) Your article will be reviewed by the Peace 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.

Farewell from Interim Pastor Jeff Engholm

"I am about to do a new thing, now it springs forth. Do you not perceive it?" Isaiah 43:19

The words above from the book of Isaiah are a reminder that God is always with us, no matter what. When there is a birth, God is with us. When there is a death, God is with us. When we take a new job, move to a new location, begin a new year in school, or welcome a new pastor… God is with us.

In fact, God is not only with us, God is at work preparing a way for us, breaking through boundaries and busting down barriers in order to clear the road ahead. Isaiah reminds us that we don't have to see the complete path ahead of us, just the next step, trusting that God is leading us forward together. And as God calls us to move ahead together, we are called to remember that "together" is the key word. Colossians 3:14 says this: "Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything TOGETHER in perfect harmony." That's Peace Lutheran Church: moving TOGETHER IN LOVE.

When this congregation presented its summary of the Mission Site Profile last January, it said this:

Peace Lutheran Church is a strong, intergenerational community that deeply cares about each other and our neighbors far and wide… Additionally, we are a welcoming congregation rooted in grace, community, and service… We aim to be a vibrant, hopeful church responding faithfully to God's call in today's world.

This statement is a beautiful summary of the congregation I was privileged to work with over the past year. It's both a description of who you are now, and it's also a goal for the future as you continue to grow stronger in the days ahead. As I look back at the past year, I simply want to say that it has been an honor to serve with you during your transition period. Your new pastor is now serving among you, which means that my time with you has come to an end.

Please allow me to extend my deepest gratitude to the entire congregation, especially the Church Council, Church Staff, Call Committee, and all those serving on various teams and committees. You all have demonstrated strong leadership during this interim time, and I am grateful for the ways we have been able to work together as the Spirit of God has led the congregation forward. (And special thanks to all who celebrated my Final Sunday Celebration! Thank you for the cards, gifts, and especially the National Park Stamp Book – I can't wait to get my next stamp!)

In Romans 8:28 we read, "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God and who are called according to God's purpose." As Susan and I bid you farewell, I am convinced that these words are true, and that "all things will, indeed, work together for good." Please hold us in your prayers, and know that we will hold you in ours.

—Interim Pastor Jeff Engholm

PEACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Sunday Worship Time: 9:30am

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

