

Guiding Statements of Peace Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

Compelled by the love of God and our faith in Jesus Christ, Peace Lutheran Church, a diverse people of faith, in partnership with Peace Community Center, seeks to realize God's dream for the world through worship, learning, giving, and serving.

Core Values and Guiding Principles

We seek to realize God's dream for the world by living out these values:

1. (Serve with) Courage: We respond to God's call with boldness, creativity, and honesty, and engage the realities of life with perseverance and joy. (Joshua 1:9)
2. (Embrace) Diversity: We invite and welcome, honor and respect people of all ages, cultures, and walks of life, and encourage people to use their unique God-given gifts and abilities. (Romans 12:4-6)
3. (Cultivate) Community: We listen, build relationships, grow in faith, and experience God's grace, as we work together in our urban Hilltop neighborhood and larger community. (Colossians 3:12-17)
4. (Seek) Justice: We advocate for the dignity of all people by addressing basic needs, empowering through education, and working toward a socially just world. (Micah 6:8-9)

Vision Statement

We believe God's vision for Peace is to be a diverse community of faith in the Hilltop where all are welcome - a community that is Spirit-filled, compassionate, healthy, reconciled, and just.

Context of Ministry at Peace Lutheran Church

Peace Lutheran Church is a socioeconomically, generationally, and ethnically diverse congregation serving in the low and mixed-income Hilltop neighborhood of urban Tacoma. The Hilltop is approximately 1/4 African-American, 1/2 Euro-American, and 1/4 other ethnicities. The church is 50% people of color, 50% white, with 45% of active participants in the life of the congregation who live or have lived in the Hilltop neighborhood. Our children and youth often have challenging home environments that may include parents with addictions, an incarcerated parent, abuse and neglect, material poverty, and lack of stable housing. Many are raised by single parents, grandparents, or guardians. All are resilient and gifted children of God. People drawn to Peace value social justice, diversity, meaningful service, education, children and youth ministry, gospel music, and a church committed to its neighborhood. We are an urban congregation seeking to faithfully respond to God's call to serve our neighbors, and God has abundantly blessed us to be a blessing to others.

Vision for Children's Ministry at Peace Lutheran Church

Children and families of all backgrounds and walks of life feel welcome, safe, and loved; encounter and experience the wonder and love of God in Jesus through regular worship, dynamic Bible stories, engaging prayer, and caring relationships; learn and grow in faith surrounded by grace-filled community; discover their God-given gifts; and use their gifts to serve God, the church, the neighborhood, and the world. Peace Lutheran Church is inspired by the words of the prophet Isaiah, "A little child will lead them" (Isaiah 11:6). We celebrate and lift up children, create opportunities for children to give and serve, and encourage the community to open our arms and to receive the gifts children offer.

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