

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
2106 South Cushman Ave  
Tacoma, WA 98405

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# THE CALL TO PEACE

Volume 13 · Issue 2 · Summer 2016

## Opportunities to Serve:

- **Serve at the Summer Bible Adventure: Rome and the Underground Church!** August 22-25, 5-8pm. We're looking for over 50 adults and youth to help lead and serve this year. Sign up at the Koinonia Corner. Questions? Contact Jeanie Correa (278-3390) or Carmen Lampman (961-3103).
- **Nursery Helpers Needed** Want to help sometimes in the Nursery during 11 am worship? Training provided, background check necessary. Contact Becky Lee (335-8099) or sign up at the Koinonia Corner.
- **Door to Door Calling On Neighbors** Feel called to join Brendan Nelson, Pastor Plaehn, and Pastor John in calling on our Hilltop neighbors and extending the love of Jesus and an invitation to Peace? Meet **each Thursday at 3:30 pm** at church and go door to door for one hour.

## Announcements:

**Position Open: Children's Outreach and Ministry Coordinator** We are seeking a part-time children's outreach and ministry coordinator. Approximately 15 hours/week. See job description at [peacelutherantacoma.org](http://peacelutherantacoma.org) under "Announcements" or in the church office. Send cover letter, resume, and one page statement of faith to [peacelutheran2106@gmail.com](mailto:peacelutheran2106@gmail.com) or Peace Lutheran Church, 2106 S. Cushman Ave., Tacoma, WA 98405. Priority deadline for application is July 10.

**Community Bible Study on Break for Summer** The Community Bible Study on Wednesday evenings led by Pastor John is taking a break for summer. We'll resume the Bible study in September.



Summer Bible Adventure last summer!!

## **Family Day at Peace** **Community Celebration** Sunday August 14, 12:30-3pm

Come join with friends and neighbors for a Family Day at Peace (in place of a Block Party). Free food, fellowship, fun, and community connections!

## **Rome and the Underground Church!** **Summer Bible Adventure** **(also known as Vacation Bible School)** August 22-25, 5-8pm

Kids and families, come for a Bible-times adventure! Start by sharing a meal. Enjoy fun activities. Learn about God's love for us in Jesus! Join a small group and experience life as it was during the time of Paul and the early church. Visit Paul and hear his stories. Visit the marketplace shops, featuring pottery, music, and food. Witness a drama every evening.

**Free!** Registration opens soon!



Peace Lutheran  
Church



PEACE COMMUNITY  
CENTER

Pastor’s Reflection

People of Peace,

“All Lives Are Precious.” Those are the words etched in the rock memorial just blocks from Peace Lutheran Church. It’s the message from God to all of us in Jesus. The memorial is part of walking tours we’ve been taking at Peace since it was erected in 1993. Neighborhood leader Larry Norman, member of Peace, helped spearhead the project at a difficult time in our history, when the Hilltop neighborhood was riddled with violence, drug traffic, and gang activity, as a way to lift up all lives that were lost. Recently it was rededicated, and there was a special celebration on May 23 to celebrate its 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary at the corner of S. 23<sup>rd</sup> and Grant Street.



Psalm 23 is its guiding word from scripture, “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you are with me.” (Catch the “23” theme?)

Diane Powers, member of Peace and Director of the City of Tacoma’s Office of Equity and Human Rights, meets regularly with leaders of our Conversations Around Race. In our last meeting, she reminded us that the “Black Lives Matter” movement is not saying that that only black lives matter or that black lives matter more but that black lives matter, too.

All lives are precious. In our six week series on 2 Corinthians, Paul is helping us see that and think about the implications.

2 Corinthians 5:16-18: Paul writes, “From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.”

Paul urges us to see one another through the eyes of Jesus, from God’s point of view (as children of God, brothers and sisters to one another), and to answer God’s call to the ministry of reconciliation. Doing the ministry of reconciliation means sharing in word and action the good news of God in Jesus that reconciles people to God and people to one another across all kinds of differences and all sorts of humanly-created barriers.

One of the five points in the vision statement of Peace Lutheran Church is “reconciled”—“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.” We live into that vision together—we’re not there yet, but we move toward it on God’s power and by God’s grace.

God bless you this summer, precious children of God, to be a blessing to others in this ministry of reconciliation to which we’re called together!

God’s peace,

*Pastor John*



Peace Summer Calendar

All events take place at Peace Lutheran Church unless otherwise specified.

June	
June 5th (Sunday)	Confirmation Sunday
June 12th (Sunday)	Celebration of Graduates in worship, 10 am Congregational Meeting
June 19th (Sunday)	Welcome to New Members in worship! 9:30 am Father’s Day breakfast
June 25th	11 am - 2 pm Middle School Faith and Fun Saturday

July	
June 27 - July 28	Summer Elem. Academy, Hilltop Scholars Middle School Summer Academy
July 6 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup>	Mondays & Wednesdays 4-4:45 pm FaithQuest (Elementary Faith Program)
July 10th (Sunday)	Mission Trip Stories and Reflections in worship and at 9:45 am
July 11-15	Hilltop Scholars College and Career Transition Seminar
July 18-28	Hilltop Scholars High School Summer Academy
July 24th (Sunday)	9:45 am Holy Communion Event for children (Pastor John leads)

August	
August 14 (Sunday)	12:30 pm (after 11 am worship) - 3 pm Family Day at Peace!
August 21 (Sunday)	9:30 pm Special Italian Breakfast (Summer Bible Adventure Preview)
August 22nd-25th	Monday - Thursday 5 - 8 pm Summer Bible Adventure — Rome and the Underground Church!
August 27th	Middle School Faith and Fun Saturday (time TBA)

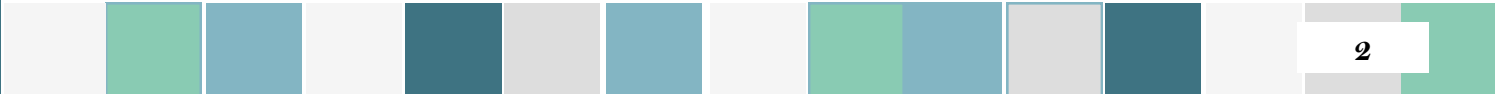
September	
September 11 (Sunday)	Rally Sunday! Sunday School kick-off for the fall at 9:45 am!



Peace Family Day last summer!!

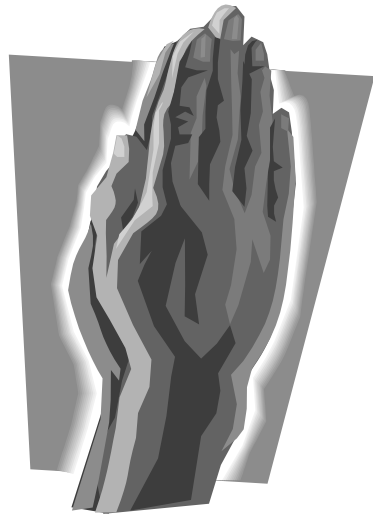


FaithQuest elementary program last summer!



## Philippians 4:6

<sup>6</sup>Do not worry **about anything**,  
but in everything  
**by prayer**  
and supplication  
**with thanksgiving**  
let your requests be made  
**known to God.**



### Remember in Prayer

#### Those who celebrate...

- Newly baptized: Stephanie Frink, Ja’Niyah Sample
- Confirmed in faith: Joseph Anderson, Brianna Miller, Ja’Niyah Sample
- Newly married: Joyce and Anthony Cooper
- The Peace community as we reach out to Hilltop families this summer, especially in academic support, enrichment opportunities, mentoring, & faith offerings for all

#### Those who are hurting...

- The hungry, all suffering economic poverty, the incarcerated, those without homes, all without hope...
- All who grieve the death of loved ones
- All who are ill, facing surgery, recovering from hospitalization, for healing
- All who struggle financially, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually, for hope
- All who live midst violence, war, or unrest, especially the people of Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Iraq, Ukraine, the Holy Land, and Central African Republic

#### Our work...

- Our ministries in community development, especially in affordable housing
- Our ministry of sharing Jesus’ love with children, youth, and families
- Our work for justice and peace in our world, building bridges among people

#### Partners in mission & service...

- Peace Community Center - tutoring, mentoring, supporting Hilltop families
- Our global partners: Davis family in Africa, Rev. Jane Kagochi in Kenya, our companion synod in Namibia, Ajak & the New Sudan Hope Foundation, Seigny family in Japan, House of Prayer Navajo Lutheran Church in AZ
- Living Stones prison congregation in Shelton
- Faith Action Network leading in advocacy for justice for all, and for political leaders

For the complete list, see Sunday’s bulletin.

## Children’s Ministry

### Children’s Ministry Update

We are prayerfully seeking direction in children’s ministry and developing a job description for a new staff member. We are committed to offering quality programming for our children and ask that you join us in prayer as we move forward in this process. In the meantime, we will continue to have many ways for our children to engage this summer.

There will be a children’s group on **Mondays and Wednesdays July 6<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>** from 4:00 pm-4:45 pm, after the Elementary Scholars Summer Camp, called “**Faith Quest**” where children will be doing faith based activities that will help them grow in their faith and learn more about God.

We will also have **Summer Bible Adventure August 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>** where we will travel back to Rome and learn about the love of Jesus. Children and families will have the opportunity to experience life as it was during the time of Paul and the early church.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of our summer opportunities, please email me at [Brendan@peacetacoma.org](mailto:Brendan@peacetacoma.org) or give me a call at 383-1317.

### *Brendan Nelson*

Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry



Kids at Peace excited about the things of God.

## Women’s Ministry

Women at Peace were blessed during their retreat by considering a theme of “**Sanctuary**” with sessions led by Pastor Lynn Longfield.

Sanctuary is not necessarily a building, though it might be. It is a place to meet God. Where is your sanctuary? Where is the place where you meet God? Where can you speak to Him, but more importantly, where can you listen to Him. For some, it is a walk in nature. For others, it is a recliner by a window. Still others want the privacy of their bedroom or den. And it could be on the kneeler in a church pew. Women can be consumed by busy-ness; sometimes by choice, other times by circumstance. Our Lord gives us all the same amount of time in our days; how we use it is up to us.

Choices, choices, choices--what a life! Why doesn’t God just come to us with a booming voice and say “Do this!” or “Don’t do that!” Instead, in love and grace, He lets us choose. We need sanctuary in our lives. Choose a time--a date with God so to speak. Read His Word, sing His songs, talk to Him, and listen for his guidance. Don’t let the world take away your time for peace and hope, your sanctuary.

*Carol Plaeahn*

# Youth Ministry

## Youth News at Peace!

We are approaching yet another great summer filled with lots of fun and faith formation! I have enjoyed making new connections with youth and seeing them grow. It has been a collective effort of many folks, and for that I am truly grateful. There is so much to share, but I will highlight a few things for you to keep in mind.

First, the **high school mission trip** will take place **June 26<sup>th</sup>- July 1<sup>st</sup> in Coeur d'Alene Idaho**. We will be serving at Lutherhaven Ministries. The programs include dynamic speakers, professional staff and caring adult mentors; meaningful programming, devotions and Bible studies; intentional leadership development; simple, significant service opportunities; and wild outdoor adventure. I know this will be a blessed experience and I can't wait to share with you upon our return in July.

Also, throughout the summer we will be having **“Faith and Fun” Saturdays on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month beginning in June**. This is open to all incoming 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students. This will give youth the opportunity to get together and explore their faith in fun and exciting ways. We will spend a lot of time outdoors enjoying the beauty of the city of Tacoma. We will culminate our summer with a reflection day and bonfire. Watch for more details in the bulletin!

Additionally, I will continue working on strengthening our partnership with the Community Center this summer. We are planning an awesome 2 week Summer Academy based on the theme **#TEAMTACOMA**. We have some guest speakers and activities lined up to engage our students in a very meaningful way.

Finally, I seek your continued prayers and support as we continue to minister to young people. Take a look at the events calendar and if you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, please speak with me.

In service,  
*Brendan Nelson*, Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry



Spring Youth Bike Trip



# Peace Community Center

**As this school year wraps up, we are blessed to share our thanks.** Thank you to those who attended and sent prayers toward our **Learners to Leaders** event. Because of your support and kindness, we were able to raise more than \$113,000 for Hilltop students! We are filled with joy knowing that we have such an amazing community of people that encourage our students to continue to be learners and leaders in their schools, communities, and beyond.

Peace Lutheran Church and Peace Community Center were blessed by the participation of local churches in our Community Meals Program this past April. We are excited to share that we served 1,830 hot meals to members of Tacoma's Hilltop community! Programs such as Community Meals are able to thrive because of amazing people who are willing to serve and share their gifts with us.

If you're looking for a way to get involved, we're always looking for members of the Church to volunteer! You can help in a variety of ways, including tutoring students after-school, sharing a special skill/talent (like knitting or cooking) in an enrichment session, or supporting our day-to-day office operations in the office. We can find a way for you to use your talents in meaningful ways!

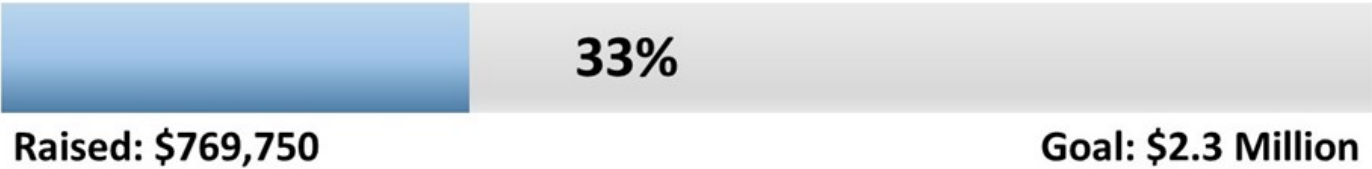
Thank you for your time, prayers, and support of our wonderful students!

## Peace Community Center is in a capital campaign!

### HILLTOP: WHERE SCHOLARS GROW

### The Campaign for Peace Community Center

#### OUR PROGRESS SO FAR



#### CAMPAIGN PROJECTS + EXPENSES



# Music Ministry

Praise God! Our search for a Music Director is over! Peace will welcome to the church staff Jimothy Rogers, who will start as part-time Music Director in August. His first Sunday will be August 21. In the meantime, we are grateful for Interim Music Coordinator Abi Deleon and Gospel Choir Director Fred Triplet! We are blessed by many musicians and song leaders who share their gifts in worship and help the congregation praise God together! As Jimothy transitions into our faith community, he will build on our strong foundation of Gospel music and musicians and lead us into the future!

*O come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our  
salvation!” Psalm 95:1*



Gretchen Duggan and Anika Lee singing Holden Evening Prayer in Lent



Irene Manley Hula praise dancing in worship

## Who’s Who on the Peace Lutheran Church Staff

- Pastor: John Stroeh, ext 101, [pastorjohn@peacetacoma.org](mailto:pastorjohn@peacetacoma.org)
- Director of Children, Youth & Family: Brendan Nelson, ext. 103, [youthministry@peacetacoma.org](mailto:youthministry@peacetacoma.org)
- Vision & Call Fellow – Children: Terrell Hawkins, ext. 148, [terrell@peacecommunitycenter.org](mailto:terrell@peacecommunitycenter.org)
- Vision & Call Fellow – Youth: Teagan Lampman, ext. 148, [teagan@peacecommunitycenter.org](mailto:teagan@peacecommunitycenter.org)
- Interim Music Ministry Coordinator: Abi Deleon, 253-209-1650, [abi.deleon1@yahoo.com](mailto:abi.deleon1@yahoo.com)
- Nursery Care: Joyce Collins, [nursery@peacetacoma.org](mailto:nursery@peacetacoma.org)
- Office Coordinator: Damishe Greenwood-Walker, ext. 100, [plcadmin@peacetacoma.org](mailto:plcadmin@peacetacoma.org)
- Finance Administrative Manager: Beth Lancaster, ext. 111, [beth@peacecommunitycenter.org](mailto:beth@peacecommunitycenter.org)
- Custodian: Ana Sanchez

# Vision and Call Fellows

This year with Kids@Peace has been a huge blessing to me, and in a lot of ways I did not foresee at the beginning of my term. May 20th we concluded our final Kids@Peace meeting and after a year with these kiddos there are some major lessons I have learned along the way.

**First and foremost, kids NEED STRUCTURE!!** Probably one of the things I witness the most with kids that I work with is this desire to do what they want when they want. They often get very frustrated with rule makers and are agitated at their lack of power when they are told what to do. Deep down though, I have discovered, kids are actually very thankful for well thought out parameters, whether they voice it or not. Even the most rebellious kids are comforted by knowing what to anticipate from a repetitive schedule and consistent authority figures. I will note, it is common to be able to find at least a few kids within each group that love following the rules and try their hardest to avoid trouble.

**Secondly, kids want someone to look up to.** Whether we know it or not, we all have a sense of influence and responsibility. Before anybody formally said it to me, I knew an element of this position was going to be inspiring kids and exposing them to realities they had never thought of before. And in a faith environment this is all the more powerful because we are given the opportunity to show kids how God can take any human and do spectacular and unpredictable things with them for his glory.

**Lastly, when we treat our kids like responsible people they will act accordingly (most of the time).** Responsibility is an instrument and it needs to be wielded and handled respectfully. I am a person that tends to try to accomplish all my tasks on my own, so I rarely ask for help. But I have quickly seen the power in letting youth help with simple tasks like carrying a basket for me, holding my notebook, or trusting them to retrieve something for me. These simple tasks that I don’t really think much of, hold immense value in their minds. When we are able to trust kids in these ways it sends the message that they matter and are worthy of being trusted. In addition to the three I have mentioned, I have learned many more lessons than that. My year of being a Vision and Call has emphasized the importance of service from the beginning and running K@P has enabled me to serve and grow with the kids of this community. If we all can just take the time to remember what it was like to be a kid, that simple reflection can help us so much to serve kids more fully. When I remember the way I looked up to my cousins growing up and wanted to be just like them, that’s very similar to the way these kids look up to us. Often times we are very critical of ourselves or our projects, but through eyes of a kid all they see are heroes and adults that deeply care about them.



## Terrell Hawkins

Vision and Call Fellow in Children’s Ministry

**Peace Lutheran Church is Going Green!**  
**If you would like to receive your newsletters by e-mail only to help us save on postage costs, save trees, and our earth’s limited resources please contact the church office at [plcadmin@peacetacoma.org](mailto:plcadmin@peacetacoma.org) or at (253) 383-1317.**

# Stewardship Highlight: God’s Abundant Grace & Love

I believe we can all agree that the life and ministries of Peace Lutheran Church are full, alive, and thriving with God's abundant Grace and Love. Our individual hands, our time and our resources bring these ministries and God's visions to life and again, I think we can all agree that it takes a great deal of hands to do so, a great deal of resources and an abundant amount of love to see it all through!

As you consider your life here at Peace, and the lives of those that we serve, I would like to invite you to consider how blessed we are with each other, with the blessings that flow to and through Peace in each and every ministry we share here. All that we do together, that we share together, that we pray for together, all of it creates "our life" as a community and what a powerful and beautiful thing OUR LIFE AT PEACE is and how powerful "our life" can be in our community.

Ponder today, if you would, how have I woven myself, my gifts, my time, my hands into life at Peace?

*Carmen Lampman*  
Stewardship Chair



## Peace Celebrates Confirmands!



On Sunday June 5, three youth were confirmed in the faith! We celebrate with them and their families at this important milestone on their faith journeys and in the life of Peace Lutheran Church! Each confirmand selected a scripture verse that is meaningful to them for their life.

**Ja’Niyah Sample:** “Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.” (Exodus 20:12) Ja’Niyah chose this verse because it’s important to be thankful to have parents and to treat our parents well because they gave birth to us. Ja’Niyah serves God by caring about people, helping at the local community center, and helping out her family. Her dream job is to have a business to help people who are homeless get their lives back on track.

**Josiah Anderson:** “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.” (Psalm 23) This passage tells Josiah that God is always there, cares about him, and will protect him from bad times. Josiah serves God by taking care of children, playing cello, and fixing stuff for people. His dream job is to be an engineer for Compass Bicycles.

**Brianna Miller:** “We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28) This verse reminds Brianna that if she’s going through a struggle, God will be there and is working to bring good out of something bad. She serves God by baking for others, taking care of children, making people feel good, showing compassion, and helping out in worship at Peace. Brianna’s dream job is to be an actor or singer or nurse or bakery owner.

# From the Church Council

Dear People of Peace,

Your Church Council continues to work hard to the glory of God and to do His will where we are planted, in the beautiful Hilltop of Tacoma. We all have different tasks and job duties, but we work as a whole. We now have a new Council member! Barbara Hartness agreed to serve as Treasurer – thank you, Barbara, for saying ‘yes’ and thanks to Tim Chalberg for his good and faithful service as Treasurer for his extended term.



Not only do we work to make Peace the light is it, we partner with other groups and causes. We formed a partnership with HUG (Hilltop Urban Gardens) where they would expand their gardens from the corner of 19<sup>th</sup> & Ainsworth to our corner of 21<sup>st</sup> & Ainsworth. You may have noticed the beginning of garden spots on the parking strips on the side of Peace’s homes! HUG also hopes to erect a greenhouse/training space where the old garage is behind the two Peace homes. What a fruitful (and veggie-full) partnership!

Another way Peace is extending beyond our walls is through a voter registration emphasis, shepherded by Sally Perkins. She is getting the word out that Peace is a place where people can register to vote or get more information. There is an emphasis on helping people with prior felony convictions get registered to vote. In 2009 a law was passed making it easier for them to get their voting right back, but many do not know this law was passed.

Council recently approved a long term lease with the Community Center. This will make it easier for the Center to apply for, and qualify for, grants as they enter into a capital campaign. This shows a strong partnership between Peace Lutheran Church and Peace Community Center.

If you ever want to know more about the Council, you can read Council minutes and reports (in the church office) or ask any of us. And don’t be surprised if someone taps you on the shoulder and says “would you be willing to serve on church council?” God’s Work. Our Hands.

## 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...

Serve with **COURAGE**  
Embrace **DIVERSITY**  
Cultivate **COMMUNITY**

## 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.**