

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church
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THE CALL TO PEACE

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Summer Bible Adventure Was Amazing!!

Children and families had a blast this summer at Peace's Summer Bible Adventure – Rome: Paul and the Underground Church! They filled the multipurpose room with life and energy. The children hung out in shops of the Roman marketplace. The apostle Paul spoke to the children every day. We had a great week learning about the never-ending love that God has for each and every one of us. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make it happen, especially co-coordinators Jeanie Correa and Carmen Lampman!



Children and adults gathered for Celebration Time daily to raise their voices to the Lord in praise!

Rally Sunday is September 11!



It's time to kick off the fall season of opportunities to grow in faith on Sundays! Make a commitment at the beginning of the school year for your family to grow deeper in relationship with God! During the Faith Education Hour on Sunday mornings from 9:45 - 10:45 am, there are opportunities to grow in faith for all ages—Godly Play for children 4th grade and under, faith class for 5th-6th grade, Feet to Faith Confirmation Ministry for 7th-8th grade, faith class for high school, and adult faith education. **Rally Sunday Potluck Lunch** after 11 am worship at 12:30 pm! Bring a dish!



Peace Lutheran



PEACE COMMUNITY
CENTER



Children and families had a great time at the annual Family Day at Peace community celebration on Sunday afternoon, August 14! All are welcome at Peace!

Pastor’s Reflection



Brendan and Pastor John are Roman guard Brutus and the apostle Paul at Summer Bible Adventure.

“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing... For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”
-- Psalm 100:1-2,5

People of Peace,
I love Peace Lutheran Church! I love the diversity of our community—multiethnic and multigenerational, our vibrant worship, the ways we reach out and serve with our Hilltop neighbors! I love special events at Peace! I love the meals we share together! And for me, it all comes together in August with Family Day and Summer Bible Adventure. This year was amazing! I hope you

were able to experience it!

Family Day on August 14 was a blast! It was a wonderful outreach event. We blanketed our neighborhood with fliers and invited neighbors and friends, and they came! Over 100 people came to share good food, fun, and fellowship! Kids and adults played Minute-to-Win-It games, croquet, tug-of-war, horseshoes, ball toss, and Bible Bingo. We gave out school supplies. Families signed their children up for Summer Bible Adventure. Brendan Nelson and I both got pies thrown in our faces! (We did it for the cause!) Christian community is not all serious all the time. It’s about “gladness,” as the psalm says. We play together! We laugh together! And our children lead the way!

Which brings me to Summer Bible Adventure! This year was “Rome: Paul and the Underground Church,” and it was four evenings in a row, August 22-25, from 5–8 pm. We estimate 100 young people participated (mostly children elementary or younger), with about 50 adults helping to make it happen! Wow! It takes the whole church to pull off an amazing event like this! You could just feel the energy of the Holy Spirit! We transformed the church building into Rome in Bible times, complete with a Marketplace, a house where Paul was staying, and an underground cave where Christians gathered for worship. Participants put on special garb to pretend they were back in Rome. Families gathered at 5 pm for a meal. The first night we had to put up extra tables and chairs—a good problem! After eating, we sang songs together about God’s love and then broke into small “Family Groups” for Bible study. Then there was a dramatic skit, a visit to Paul who was chained to the Roman guard Brutus, and a chance to meet with Christians in the Underground Church. Kids heard from Paul the message of God’s love in Jesus and gradually saw Brutus warm up to God’s love and become a follower of Jesus! They were inspired by the faith of early Christians who faced danger to follow Jesus. They went to Marketplace shops and did crafts. They were surrounded by caring adults. They absolutely loved Summer Bible Adventure! Kids and families heard the message: God’s love is a gift! God’s love changes us! God’s love is always with us! God’s love saves us! God’s love is worth sharing!

One day our van driver overheard a mom who had not been at Summer Bible Adventure ask her child what they learned that day, and the answer was, “God loves me.” Yes, that’s it! That’s what we want our kids to know in their hearts!

That’s the message children and youth hear every Sunday at Peace. Summer Bible Adventure may be over until next year, but Sunday School and other faith activities for children, youth, and family continue throughout the year!

Blessings to you as we enter Fall with many opportunities to grow in faith and serve God at Peace!

Pastor John



Peace Fall Calendar

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

September

- Sunday Sept 4: Back to School Blessing** for students, parents and teachers
- Sunday Sept 11: Rally Sunday!** Faith education classes on Sundays begin for the Fall in a big way for all ages!
- Sun Sept 18: Peace Community Center Sunday!** We meet Center staff members, hear an update on pro-grams and the campaign, and learn about opportunities to serve God through Peace Community Center.
- Sun Sept 25: Stewardship series “Life Together in Service”** kicks off!

October

- October Weeknights, 5:30 – 6:30 pm: Community Meal Program**
- Sunday Oct 2 at 2 pm: Hunger Walk** at Fort Steilacoom Park
- Sun Oct 16: Commitment Sunday at Peace**, in which we make a pledge in worship of our time, talent, and treasure to God through Peace Lutheran Church for 2017 and a financial pledge toward the Peace Community Center Campaign

November

- Nov 4-5, Fri & Sat 9–3 pm: Holiday Bazaar**
- Nov 19 at 5:30 pm: Community Thanksgiving Meal.** We gather to give thanks to God for God’s many gifts.

December

- Dec 24 5 pm: Christmas Eve Children’s Worship**

Opportunities to Serve

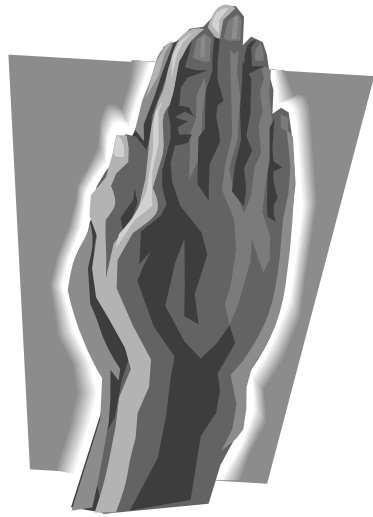
Meet the Neighbors Door to Door Calling Interested in going door to door calling on neighbors after 11 am worship? Join a group led by Pastor Plaehn, Pastor John, and Brendan Nelson. We meet in the multipurpose room the **first Sunday of the month after 11 am worship (about 12:30 pm)**, go meet neighbors (in singles or pairs), and return to the church. It’s a 1 to 1½ hour commitment.

- October is Hunger Response Month at Peace!**
- Give A Financial Gift to Fight Hunger.** Write a check to Peace Lutheran Church earmarked “Hunger Walk” to benefit the Emergency Food Network. Or write a check to Peace earmarked “ELCA World Hunger Appeal” for global hunger relief, development, education, and advocacy.
- Hunger Walk.** Do a 5k walk on Sunday, Oct. 2. 2pm at Fort Steilacoom Park to raise hunger aware-ness and funds for food banks and hunger prevention. After the walk, enjoy entertainment and food.
- October Community Meal Program.** Serve and share fellowship October weekdays, 5:30 – 6:30 pm.



Philippians 4:6

⁶Do 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: Zariah Stewart, Camille Ghrmai, Isaiah Ghrmai, Gabriel Ghrmai
- Our community following a great summer of outreach and ministry through the Summer Academy Children's Bible Study FaithQuest, Summer Bible Adventure, Youth Mission Trip, Family Day at Peace, and Peace Community Center programs
- The Peace community as we reach out to Hilltop families this fall, especially in academic support, enrichment opportunities, mentoring, & faith offerings for all

Those who are hurting...

- 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, Central African Republic, Ukraine, Iraq, and the Holy Land

Our work...

- Our ministries in community development, especially in affordable housing ministry
- 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 - and Peace Community Center's campaign to expand the building and strengthen programs
- Our global partners: Davis family in Africa, Rev. Jane Kagochi in Kenya, our companion synod in Namibia, Ajak & the New Sudan Hope Foundation, Sevigny 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 announcements.

Children's Ministry

I am honored to be a part of the ministry team at Peace Lutheran Church in my new role as Interim Children's Outreach and Ministry Coordinator. During FaithQuest in July, I was delighted to meet some of the kids and parents whom we will continue to serve in future programs. Then August's Summer Bible Adventure to Rome provided the opportunity to share God's unconditional love with nearly 100 children.

The volunteers whom I have had the pleasure to come alongside during both FaithQuest and the Summer Bible Adventure have been so well-prepared and servant-hearted. I am thankful for their commitment to the children. I look forward to working together to support other faith-based programs and activities that encourage the children in our church and within our community to build personal relationships with Jesus and each other. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" Matthew 19:14.

I love the description of the Children's Ministry I found on our church website: "Children's ministry at Peace Lutheran Church helps children understand God's unconditional love for them in Jesus, shares God's love and encourages children to grow spiritually, cultivates caring relationships with adults who pass on the faith, and gives children opportunities to serve their community. Our desire is that every young person feels welcome, safe, and loved."

Please join me in serving the children!

Kim Sevigny

Interim Children's Outreach and Ministry Coordinator



A family group meets to learn about the Bible during Summer Bible Adventure.

Evangelism Ministry

Evangelizing means sharing the gospel. Each person has a personal story which is formed by truths. When we share our personal stories and remember to accentuate the ways in which God has been with us and been there for us, then we are Evangelizing. In that way we each are able to share the gospel anytime we share our personal story. The congregation at our church has many stories to tell and has been blessed in many ways. Please make a point to share your story with someone. Then ask if they will tell you there's.

Each Wednesday at 1:00 p.m., I sit with a church member at a table outside our church and offer a cold drink and cookie to passer by s on the sidewalk. I have had the most awesome opportunity to hear the stories of people in our neighborhood, share some of my own, and offer a cordial invite to join us for worship on Sunday. Please consider offering to join me some Wednesday. It's an hour well spent.

Our Annual Holiday Bazaar here at Peace is scheduled for November 4th and 5th. The bazaar is another great opportunity to meet our neighbors and to let them what is special to you about being part of our congregation. Then give them an invite! At the bazaars you can shop for inexpensive gifts and gently used household items, have lunch, and enjoy fellowship.

My role as evangelism chair does not mean that I alone tell my story and share what God has done in my life. Every person here at Peace is equipped to reach out and do the same. Remember to invite folks to join us so they too can experience what happens here at Peace. Who will you connect with today?

In His Service, *Teresa Jackson*, Evangelism Chair



2016 Summer Mission Trip at Shoshone Mountain Retreat, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho

Wow, I must say that this has been an incredible summer for students, leaders, and families! We were so excited to offer an awesome summer mission trip this year to Shoshone Mountain Retreat in beautiful Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, a seven decade-old non-profit Christian camp and retreat ministry, originally founded by Lutheran congregations in Idaho, Washington and Oregon. The trip was highly formational for our ministry as youth drew closer to God and to each other.

The youth made life-long, life-changing, Christ-centered relationships with other servant leaders from around the country and with the people they’ve served, relationships with people of all ages, shapes, sizes, colors, backgrounds and abilities. I was extremely blessed to have time to work closely with many of them (some for the first time!) and to learn more about their stories as they seek to experience the presence of God and allow themselves to be moved by His deep, deep love for them.

I remain thrilled to be a part of a community of talented men and women who have such great love for our youth. In so many ways our church is leading the way forward as we seek to be both a great local church and a mission outpost for our community.

As we enter into the academic year, I am always looking for volunteer leaders to serve in youth ministry. I believe that solid ministry is built on relationships between caring adults and students. Relationships are key to a young person feeling loved and understanding God’s love in practical ways. This is when real spiritual growth takes place in their life.

If you are interested in serving this year, please feel free to email me at brendan@peacetacoma.org, or call me at the church office 383-1317 and I can get you connected.

Peace and Blessings,

Brendan Nelson Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry

Peace Community Center

Congratulations to our elementary, middle, and high school students who completed our Summer Academy! Students worked very hard to build their academic skills and strategies while focusing on their academics such as math, reading, and writing. They also had fun with extracurricular activities such as aerobics, yoga, glassblowing, skateboarding, robotics, and a scavenger hunt in the Hilltop area.

We would like to introduce Jay Thomas as our Interim Executive Director. Jay has worked for Big Brothers, Big Sisters, ResCare, Bates Technical College, the YMCA, United Way of Pierce County, and most recently at Associated Ministries. He has been in Tacoma most of his life and has a strong background in non-profit management and fundraising. Please stop by and give Jay a warm welcome!

Thank you for your time, prayers, and support of our wonderful students! If you would like to take a tour of our programs and see first-hand what our kids are up to, please contact gerdon@peacecommunitycenter.org.

Gerdon Jones
Peace Community Center Development Assistant

Opportunities for Adults to Grow in Faith This Fall

- Upcoming Adult Education Sundays at 9:45 am**
Sept 11: Overview of Fall Faith Education & Future Ideas for Growing in Faith, led by Kit Thompson
Sept 18: Peace Community Center Update and Meet the Staff
Sept 25–Oct. 16: A new series called “Life Together in Service.” We celebrate the gift of community and God’s calling to serve together through Peace Lutheran Church and Peace Community Center. Bible studies on serving in community will guide us, and stories of serving in community will inspire us to be good stewards of all God has entrusted to us in community!

Community Bible Study The Community Bible Study is starting again for adults on Wednesday September 28. We meet Wednesday evenings from 6:15 – 7:30 pm in the Ray Conference Room, led by Pastor John, and all are welcome! We study the scripture readings for the following Sunday! Come, share, and grow in faith through conversation around scripture! Questions? Ask Pastor John.

Fall Spiritual Growth Small Groups The vision of Peace is of Spirit-filled community. To help us live into this vision, adults in the congregation are meeting **once a week starting the week of Sunday October 16** in small groups for 5 weeks for about 1½ hours each session to study scripture, reflect on how it applies to our lives, and receive spiritual exercises to try during the week. We’re exploring the five points of the Peace Lutheran Church Vision Statement: community that is Spirit-filled, Compassionate, Healthy, Reconciled, and Just. We’re all on a faith journey together! Sign up at the Koinonia Corner! Questions? Ask Pat Ferguson (627-1349) or Pastor John.



Elementary students enjoying the fruit of their labor. Cooking enrichment class led by Brendan Nelson at the summer elementary academy. This photo of Azaree was taken by another 2nd grade scholar Barbara during her photography enrichment class.

Music Ministry

Greetings to all,

It is truly a blessing to begin serving as your Director of Music. It was a long, but beautiful journey across America with my fiancée Tracey Williams, however we are here and happy to be worshiping with you at Peace Lutheran Church. To Pastor John and the Church Council, thank you for selecting me to carry on this Music Ministry, as I've learned in recent days, following in the footsteps of many other anointed musicians before myself. Also, to those who kindly brought items and delicious meals to our home, that was greatly appreciated.

As interim Music Coordinator, Abi Deleon must certainly be acknowledged for maintaining the cohesion of choir and musician functions. She implemented very important methods of music organization and communication that will continue.

My prayer is always for God to allow us musicians to become a vessel to receive the Holy Spirit. For God to work through us to create the sound He desires to minister to those in worship. My goal is to preserve these ideas and make good stewardship of these divine principles weekly. In choir rehearsal, each Thursday evening at 7 pm, we will strive for beauty in our sound, and to expand an already plentiful repertoire with music from Classical to Contemporary Gospel genres. If you are interested in singing with the Gospel Choir or want to return to singing with us, please attend a rehearsal or let us know of your interests. I must say that it seems that we really need the anointed Tenors and Basses to join us. The vision for the choir this swiftly approaching year, includes special music during Sunday worship, musical presentations during the holiday seasons, concerts, and collaborations with others in worshipful performances throughout the city of Tacoma.

We would like for all of the talented musicians at Peace to be a part of the worship experience as well. Please contact me to set up a time to play through songs, talk music, and get insight of your musical ideas and how you can best share your gifts.

Our responsibility as a Music Ministry is to unify around the Themes and Pastor's Message, using our musical gifts to support worship, ushering in the awesome Spirit that ministers to our hearts. I'm looking forward to High Praises and making a Joyful noise unto the Lord, for He is worthy to be Praised.

Peace and Blessings,
Jimothy Rogers, Music Director



Peace's new Music Director
Jimothy Rogers

Opportunities to Serve in Music Ministry

Sing in the Gospel Choir Music Director Jimothy Rogers is here, and it's a great time to join the Choir! The Gospel Choir meets **every Thursday at 7 pm** in the sanctuary. Jump in and make a joyful noise to the Lord!

Calling All Musicians Music Director Jimothy Rogers is inviting all musicians playing instruments other than the piano to contact him to schedule a time to meet with him individually to play and connect. Contact him at 383-1317 ext. 148 or jimothy@peacetacoma.org.

Women's Ministry

Shorter hours of light, a slight cooling of temperature while we sleep, fog greeting the morning, trees with a tinge of color--and we know fall is coming. We get back to routine, back to regularly scheduled meetings and we begin to honor commitments to which we have said, "Yes."

We want to invite women of Peace to make a new commitment; our once a month women's Bible Study. We meet at the church the second Thursday of each month at 10 A.M. It is an informal, flexible group wanting to share what God is trying to tell us through His Word. We bring our lunch and stay for fellowship and food if our schedule permits. We would love to have you join us.

Our September Bible study will be on Jonah. Surely we can all relate to that story (even if we have never been in the belly of a great fish.) It is a powerful story of grace for us--God forgives the guilty. We are all there.

Join us! Give us your insights so we can learn together!

Carol Plaehn
on behalf of Women's Ministry at Peace

Who's Who on the Peace Lutheran Church Staff

- Pastor: John Stroeh, ext 101, pastorjohn@peacetacoma.org
- Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry: Brendan Nelson, ext. 103, brendan@peacetacoma.org
- Interim Children's Ministry Coordinator: Kim Sevigny, ext. 114, kim@peacetacoma.org
- Music Director: Jimothy Rogers, ext. 148, jimothy@peacetacoma.org
- Office Coordinator: Damishe Greenwood-Walker, ext. 100, plcadmin@peacetacoma.org
- Finance Coordinator: Beth Lancaster, ext. 111, beth@peacecommunitycenter.org
- Nursery Care: Joyce Collins, nursery@peacetacoma.org
- Custodian: Ana Sanchez

Stay Connected with Peace Lutheran Church!

Find Us on Facebook Now! See ministry pictures, get updates, and stay on top of what's going on!

Peace Lutheran Church Tacoma:
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Peace-Lutheran-Church-Tacoma/158463120852109?_rdr=p

Youth Ministry at Peace Lutheran Church:
<https://www.facebook.com/peaceyouth2106>

Visit Peace on the web at <http://www.peacelutherantacoma.org/>



Stewardship Highlight: Life Together in Service



“Our Life Together in Service”...These words embrace so many different meanings for us as a church family, as members of the Hilltop Community we are serving, as partners with Peace Community Center and for each of us. As a church family, we have the blessed opportunities to work side by side, to fellowship side by side, all while filling our ministries with the vision God sets before us. So many of our ministries flow out to our neighbors in our beautiful Hilltop Community and beautifully flow back to this place when those neighbors join us in our efforts or begin visiting our church, seeking a place of Peace. We often speak of our partnership with Peace Community Center but I ask you today to consider exactly what that means to YOU. In this season of change for the Community Center, our loving work, our time, our treasures flowing to and through the programs of the Center are so important.

Not only because of the impact each of us can have on the students being served but also, those actions will reinforce the foundation on which our two ministries converge and grow together, ensuring that all are reminded that our lives are all intertwined in common mission and vision! Through 2016 you will be invited to self reflect on how your God given gifts can be used in the common work and mission! Each of us have so many unique gifts to offer in our life together in service here and the community!

If you would like to explore ideas of how you may be able to see yourself in the mission and work please reach out to those leaders in the areas you are interested in. God calls each of us to shine our light!

Carmen Lampman, Stewardship Team

You’re Invited to a Home Gathering! Learn more about the Peace Community Center’s “Hilltop: Where Scholars Grow” Campaign to expand the facility and strengthen programs for Hilltop youth. Peace Lutheran Church is supporting that campaign with our Life Together in Service emphasis along with our yearly stewardship focus. Explore how God is leading the Church, Center, and each of us into this next chapter. Your participation in these home gatherings end of Sept/early Oct is important to the campaign’s success and the strengthening of our partnership. Sign up at the Koinonia Corner table!

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**

Seek **JUSTICE**

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.**

From the Church Council

Dear People of Peace,

Your Church Council sees to the work and mission of the church, but we also take time at every meeting to pray for concerns and thanksgivings. Every other month we take time to write cards of encouragement to people we haven’t seen recently or who we think just needs a word of encouragement. This is one way we strive for In-Reach (we still need a council representative for the In-Reach position – do you feel called?!).

The Council is also reading and discussing the book *The Mission Table* which is about renewing congregation and community. We take time each meeting to discuss a chapter and see how we at Peace are recognizing the ‘tables’ around us. We most recently discussed the chapter titled “The Congregation: A Table for Mission” and this chapter identified ten biblical marks of a missional congregation: A congregation in mission: 1) is always listening, 2) mentors and trains its leaders, 3) nurtures communal leadership, 4) faces paralysis with courage, 5) re-roots in its community, 6) risks new things, 7) makes all decisions based on its mission, 8) is clear about money and relationships, 9) is propelled by the resurrection of Jesus, and 10) is shaped by Word and sacraments. The chapter ended with the 17 marks of a missional congregation: Word, children, worship, solidarity, infrastructure & money, leadership, mercy & justice, community, wider worlds, communal leadership, story, spiritual gifts, vocation, stewardship, prayer & the faith, action & reflection, and resurrection.

Where do you see Peace’s strengths? Where are areas in which we can improve? The new Missional Sustainability emphasis, with leadership from the national church and in conjunction with other synod congregations, will help us delve into some of these ideas in concrete ways, especially in methods such as asset mapping. Watch for up-dates from the team. God’s work. Our hands.

Jean Kampen, Council President



2016 Peace Lutheran Church Council

Small Group Opportunities to Grow and Serve This Fall

Join a Small Group to Grow in Faith and Fellowship

- Book Club: Kit Thompson: 229-5766
- College Care Package Team: Pat Ferguson: 627-1349
- Conversations Around Race & Justice: Ted Johnstone: 752-9514, Alma Cox Crawford: 752-4258
2nd Sundays at 9:45 am
- Community Bible Study: Pastor John: 383-1317 ext 101, Wednesdays, 6:15 - 7:30 pm
- Faith-based Community Development: Larry Norman: 970-531-4580
- Gospel Choir: Jimothy Rogers: 383-1317 ext 148, Thursdays at 7 pm
- Men’s Breakfast: Joseph Anderson: 678-3409, 2nd Saturdays, 8 am at church
- Papers of Peace (card-making): Nancy Heavey: 752-8450
- Spirituality of Golf: Al Shelton: 377-9144
- Women’s Bible Study: Carol Plaehn: 752-3175, 2nd Thursdays, 10 am at church
- Writing Group: Shari Shelton: 906-3769. 2nd Mondays, 6:15 pm at church