

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

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THE CALL TO PEACE

Volume 13 · Issue 2 · Summer 2017

Opportunities to Serve:

- **Serve at the Summer Bible Adventure: Egypt! July 10-13, 5-8pm.** We're looking for many adults and youth to help lead and serve. Sign up at the Koinonia Corner. Questions? Contact Jeanie Correa (278-3390) or Carmen Lampman (961-3103).
- **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. Or meet **after 11 am worship on the first Sunday of each month** to go door to door calling.

Announcements:

New Peace Cookbooks Cookbooks are available for purchase for \$12 Sundays between services.

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.

Women's Bible Study All are invited to the Women's Bible Study group at 10 am on the second Thursday of the month.

Men's Breakfast The Men's Breakfast and Bible study meets the second Saturday of the month 8-9:30 am in the multipurpose room. Connect with God and share fellowship with other men! Invite someone!

Miss a Sunday at Peace? Listen to the sermon by clicking on the link on the church website peacelutherantacoma.org.



Summer Bible Adventure last summer!!

Peace Tailgate Sunday Community Celebration

Sunday July 9, 12:30-2:30 pm

Come join with friends and neighbors for a fun time outside on the Peace corner lot. Eat free food from our cookbook and share fellowship, fun, and community connections!

Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace! Summer Bible Adventure (also known as Vacation Bible School)

July 10-13, 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 Joseph in ancient Egypt. Visit Joseph and hear his stories. Visit the marketplace shops, featuring crafts, music, and food.

Witness a drama every evening.

Free! Register at the Koinonia Corner!



Peace Lutheran
Church



Pastor’s Reflection

People of Peace,

This year the Lutheran church celebrates the 500th anniversary year of the Reformation that began in the year 1517! Martin Luther was a key reformer in the church of his day, helping open people’s eyes to the good news of the Apostle Paul in Galatians 2:6, “We know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ.” “We are saved by grace through faith” became the catch phrase of a new movement of followers of Jesus that extends to us today!

On May 3-6 Brendan Nelson and I were blessed to attend the Lutheran Services in America (LSA) annual conference in Washington, D.C. Our Peace Community Center is a member organization of LSA. It was amazing to meet representatives from Lutheran social ministries agencies all over the United States. Lutheran Services in America members provide services to seniors, children, youth and families, refugees, people with disabilities, veterans, and those affected by disasters—making a difference in the lives of one in 50 Americans every year! Wow!

Speaking of the Reformation, Martin Luther didn’t just call people to trust that we are saved by God’s grace (God’s unconditional love for us in Jesus) but also to respond to that grace by caring for one another and God’s creation. Luther and the Wittenberg Council in his day set up the first social services agency in Europe, called the Common Chest. The purpose was to distribute funds to anybody in need, such as orphans, children, and women. Funds paid for education and vocational training and medical services. The chest provided low-income loans to artisans and refinanced high-interest loans. The idea was that service was not simply about giving charity to those in economic poverty but about helping people avoid economic poverty in the first place.

Peace Lutheran Church and Peace Community Center continue to do this work of Lutheran social ministry today. We provide food, clothing, emergency financial assistance, scholarships, shelter, and educational support for children, youth, individuals and families. We’re about the work not only of charity but also of community development and justice. Martin Luther said, “For so to help a person that he or she does not need to become a beggar is just as much of a good work and virtue as to give alms to a person who has already become a beggar.”

We also engage in advocacy on behalf of the vulnerable. Brendan and I had the chance to visit our Congressperson Derek Kilmer in his office in D.C. In the fifteen minutes we had with him, we spoke about the importance to our Community Center of the 21st Century Grant (which funds after school programming) and our AmeriCorps team, and we lifted up the need for affordable housing in the Hilltop. Rep. Kilmer expressed that he would like to visit and speak to our community at Peace sometime soon.



Saved by God’s grace in Jesus, we are freed to serve others. How is God calling you to do that through Peace Lutheran Church and Community Center this 500th anniversary year? God bless you this summer!

God’s peace,
Pastor John

P.S. Leigh, Luke, and I are so grateful for your love and support as this summer we travel to China for two weeks to adopt a little girl, Joy, who is two years old, and bring her home to our family, neighborhood, and church. I will be taking about five weeks off as we establish rhythms as a family of four.



Peace Summer Calendar

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

June

June 4th (Sunday)	Confirmation Sunday
June 11th (Sunday)	Celebration of Graduates in worship, 10 am Congregational Meeting
June 18th (Sunday)	Welcome to New Members in worship! 9:30 am Father’s Day breakfast
June 25th-30th	High School Mission Trip to the Yakama Nation
June 26th - July 28th	Hilltop Scholars Middle School Summer Academy
June 26th - August 2nd	McCarver Scholars Elementary Summer Academy

July

July 5th-August 2nd	Tuesdays & Wednesdays 4-5 pm FaithQuest (Elementary Faith Program)
July 9th (Sunday)	Mission Trip Stories and Reflections in worship and at 9:45 am
July 9th (Sunday)	12:30 pm (after 11 am worship) Peace Tailgate Sunday!
July 10th-13th	Monday - Thursday 5 - 8 pm Summer Bible Adventure — Egypt!
July 17th-28th	Hilltop Scholars High School Summer Academy

August

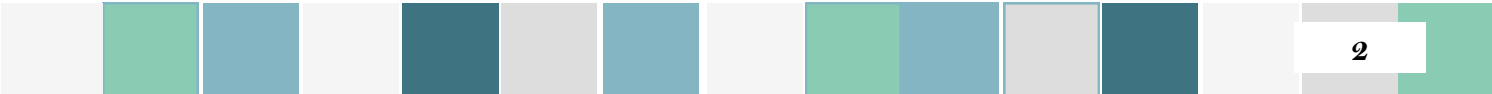
Aug 13th-18th	Hilltop Scholars Middle School Camp
Note: Beginning late July and continuing through August and beyond, a time of facility renovation is planned, with the construction of a new expanded kitchen, an office wing, and changes in the multipurpose room, the wonderful fruit of the Peace Community Center campaign. God will be calling us to flexibility and patience as we wait for this work to be accomplished. Programs and activities will be adjusted according to facility availability. What a blessing to anticipate new, useable space for God’s ministry!	

September

September 10th (Sunday)	Rally Sunday! Sunday School kick-off for the fall at 9:45 am!
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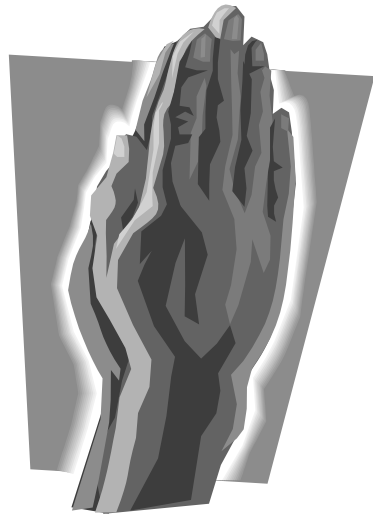


Last summer’s high school mission trip to Idaho.



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: Treyana Evans, Ka'Leah Wyatt, Nohkahe Jone, Armonie Mar'Che Danials
- Confirmed in faith: Karena Gillis, Daviana Reed, Julia Sevigny, Jarod Stoll
- 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, 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 bulletin.

Children's Ministry

Highlights from Children's Ministry at Peace!



Lenten Resurrection Gardens!



Angel Choir and Children's Worship Kids!



Easter!



Kids @ Peace on Fridays!



Easter Eggstravaganza!

Kim Sevigny, Interim Children's Outreach & Ministry Coordinator

Women's Ministry

You don't need to look far to see that a woman's life can be filled, oh so quickly, with church, work, family, volunteering, driving, housekeeping, etc., etc., etc. How do we fit in time with God? How do we carve out minutes for prayer, for reading the Bible and inspirational literature, for simply being silent to listen for our Savior's leading and guidance?

Did anyone say it would be easy? No, but it must be intentional. We make time for what is really important in our lives. God gave His all for us. He died to take away our sins, and His grace gives us life each day. Can we not fit in minutes with Him every day in response to that grace? Practice Bible study; we have the Wednesday evening study with Pastor John on our weekly Scripture readings. We have a women's Bible study the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the church. Each Sunday there is an adult forum during the education hour which often includes some Bible study. Join one if you have not given any of them a try.

Former President Jimmy Carter said "My faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have—to try to make a difference." Good words. Begin your journey to making a difference by taking time with our Lord.



Carol Plaehn

Gospel Choir

I enjoy singing in the choir because it helps my memory a lot. It also serves as therapy for the heart! Irene Manley



Every Thursday
7pm

I love sharing the gospel through our music, and we have a great time at practice! Barbara Hartness



FUN

Fellowship

You are invited to join the Gospel Choir - I have been so very blessed by accepting a similar invitation. Kit Thompson

Sing with Us

I was afraid to join the choir. Now I can't imagine not being a part of it. What an amazing experience! Don Gillis



In the midst of my busy week, choir practice is a special time that feeds my soul! Carol Watson.



Peace Gospel Choir is an enriching musical experience, a supportive group of people, and a fun way to spend part of the evening. We'd love to hear your voice! Gretchen Duggan

If you are interested in becoming a part of Peace Lutheran Church's Gospel Choir, contact *Jimothy Rogers*, Music Director at jimothy@peacetacoma.org.

Peace Community Center

Learners to Leaders 2017 - Thank you to all who attended our annual benefit event, Learners to Leaders. With your support and generosity, we raised over \$86,000 to support our Hilltop students in their journey to become college graduates and leaders of their community! We are honored to have incredible individuals like you who believe in our mission and our students. Your gifts, thoughts, and prayers truly make a difference in the students, families, and Hilltop community!

Summer Academy 2017 – Our elementary, middle school, and high school students will be participating in high-quality summer learning to further build their academic and character skills! Some of the academic areas that students will build on include reading, math, writing, and science. We will be offering innovation and enrichment stations such as creative writing, gardening, music, and film-making for students to increase their creativity and thinking skills. Lastly, students will also go on field trips to museums, farms, and waterways to expand their knowledge in art, technology and environmental sciences!

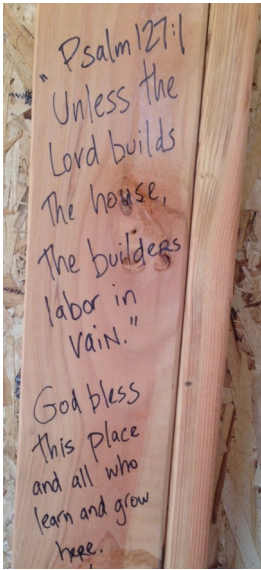
Ways to get involved – We are thankful for volunteers who seek to be involved with Peace. We have many ongoing opportunities such as helping students with their homework, leading enrichment activities, helping out with office tasks, and more. Please stop by whenever you are free and see how your talents and gifts can be brought into action here at Peace, or email us at info@peacecommunitycenter.org.



Recent Goings-On at Peace Lutheran Church



Peace Concert Series with Raymond Deleon and Jimothy Rogers



Written blessings for the new classroom across the alley



Mother's Day breakfast



Baptism of Nohkahe Jones



Confirmation youth retreat skits



African Gospel group Ijenneh leads music in worship on Pentecost

Who's Who on the Peace Lutheran Church Staff

- Pastor: John Stroeh, ext 101, pastorjohn@peacetacoma.org
- Director of Children, Youth & Family: Brendan Nelson, ext. 103, youthministry@peacetacoma.org
- Interim Children's Outreach & Ministry Coordinator: Kim Sevigny, ext 114, kim@peacetacoma.org
- Vision and Call Fellow - Children: Andrea Garcia, andrea@peacecommunitycenter.org
- Vision and Call Fellow - Youth: Hailie Maas, hailie@peacecommunitycenter.org
- Music Director: Jimothy Rogers, ext 148, jimothy@peacetacoma.org
- Deaconess Intern: Sister Karie Hamilton, karie@kariehamilton.com
- Office Coordinator: Damishe Greenwood-Walker, ext 100, plcadmin@peacetacoma.org
- Interim Finance Coordinator: Jean Kampen, jeano@net-venture.com
- Nursery Care: Deanna Nord, nursery@peacetacoma.org
- Custodian: Ana Sanchez
- Summer Intern: Shelby Sullivan, shelby.sullivan98@gmail.com

Youth Ministry

Peace Family,

As I look back to this past Lenten season, and look forward to the upcoming Pentecost / Summer season, I am reminded that our young people are a like us adults: both sinner and saint. I've seen them struggle with conflict with others and among themselves. I've seen and heard hurtful things said and done. I've seen choices made that have hurt themselves and others. I've seen how sin has impacted them as individuals and as a group.

The Good News is that I have also seen them desire to learn more about Christ. They have wrestled with Biblical texts in confirmation and have received what God has for them, and us, in those texts. They then wrestle some more with how to share the messages that they have discovered in a way that is true to them, yet also accessible to most. They have stumbled toward reconciliation with each other and have been challenged by our calling as the Body of Christ to resolve conflict in our community with humility, accountability, and forgiveness.

Our young people are a lot like us adults: they are loved, called, and gifted by God to bear witness to God's love and grace in this world. Our young people are a lot like us adults: they struggle with attitudes, appetites, and behaviors that don't reflect the love, calling, and gifts of God in their lives. They are a lot us adults...they (we) need to be reminded of God's grace for them (us). They (we) need to know that their (our) questions about life and faith are safe to ask. They (we) need to know that they (we) have a hope and a future. They (we) need to know that God can, and does, use their (our) lives even as broken imperfect people. They (we) need to know that they (we) are free in Christ to serve neighbor and nations.

As we all look to live out our faith in the world we are reminded that we are not called to boast about our goodness but of the goodness of the One who loves, calls, gifts, and sends us out into the world with a living message that shines through broken vessels. Take time to encourage a young person, and yourself, by helping them remember God's promises for you and them! God's peace and blessings to you this summer as you live under God's grace for you, your family, and our community.

In service,

Brendan Nelson, Director of Children, Youth & Family 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 or at (253) 383-1317.

Stewardship Highlight: God’s Abundant Grace & Love

Life Together In Service! Such meaningful words for us Peace. Service.....service to our community, to our children, to our neighbors...to one another. Lifting the work of one another via our hands, our feet, our prayers, our treasurers. Our children, both church and Center, they look to us, people of Faith to show them the way, to model stewardship with our time, our gifts and our love. Our Community: we stepped out in faith with our Affordable Housing ministry to invest in our community. This ministry will continue to need committed people to sustain and do the work this ministry represents. So many ministries that could be lifted up, prayed for, and all are opportunities to work together, in Service.

The Community Center is undergoing many changes both the building and the infrastructure, our love and commitment to the Children and Young adults involved in the mission of the Peace Community Center are such a blessing and in this season, in need of our nurturing attention and love! As we approach summer be encouraged to seek ways to walk in these words at Peace. SERVICE and TOGETHER. God has richly blessed this place with so much love, vision, time, and abundance! With those blessings comes so many opportunities to ensure the success of what we have started! Be blessed to be a blessing this summer with your time, your talents and your treasures!

Carmen Lampman, Stewardship Chair



Peace Celebrates Confirmands!



On Sunday June 4, four 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.

Karena Gillis: “I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength.” (Philippians 4:13) We are limited without Christ, but with him, the impossible becomes possible. Karena feels God is calling her to help uplift others and stay positive. She hopes to become a pediatrician and help cure kids.

Daviana Reed: “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” (Isaiah 12:3) God gives us one life and wants us to be grateful and appreciate it. Daviana believes God is using her to make others happy by making them smile or laugh and by being a good friend. She hopes to become an ob-gyn doctor and help others understand their bodies better and be healthy.

Julia Sevigny: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.” (Romans 10:15b) Julia chose this verse because as a child she did a nativity ballet and received a Bible gift with this verse highlighted. Ever since, she has wanted to be the feet that bring the good news of Jesus. She learns new things from God every day to share with others, even through small things that she does that people notice. She hopes to be a naturopath some day.

Jarod Stoll: “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” (John 10:11) Jarod sees how God is using him sometimes to be a shepherd to others to help them stay together as a group and on the right track. God has given him gifts of compassion and caring. He appreciates how Jesus is our Good Shepherd. Jarod hopes to have a job in computers or graphic design some day.

From the Church Council

I was reminded last week to submit my May Council Update to Damishe for inclusion in the newsletter. After looking at the sky, the water, the wind, and the thermometer I assumed that it was a typo and it was really March. Only the calendar confirmed my mistake and argued for May!

Without regard for weather your council marches on. We begin each meeting with prayer and devotion to set our hearts and minds to determine God’s will for Peace Lutheran Church. Do we always get it right? Not likely, but we trust God to turn our imperfect human efforts into the good that He wants for us. What a comfort it is to know that as God is for us we cannot fail. Not all the things we do seem so momentous. We look at the budget and finances, we discuss the day to day operations, and we report on our activities. We also have council members working on the sustainability of our major missions like Affordable Housing and the Community Meals. We have members helping to plan worship and youth activities, education and evangelism. We try to use the Asset Mapping to help with the work.

June 16-17 some of us will travel (all the way to Parkland) for the Synod Assembly where we are reminded that we are a part of something much bigger and we participate in decisions for the whole Lutheran Church and learn what is happening in other churches. We will also participate this year in our synod’s efforts to ensure adequate and fair compensation for our pastors.

When I consider the members of this year’s council I see a group of committed and involved people. Some are in choir, some teach Sunday school, some are involved in feeding the church and the community, some involved in youth events, in children’s ministry, in outreach to the community, in caring for our own members and in many other ministries. We look a lot like Peace! What a joy to be part of all of this.

Peace,
Ben Flesher, Council President



Council: Clockwise: V.P. Bob Lee, Secretary Devin Scott, Pastor John, Youth rep Josiah Anderson, President Ben Flesher, Worship chair Major Whitten, Treasurer Barb Hartness, Education chair Kit Thompson, Stewardship chair Carmen Lampman, Outreach chair Teresa Jackson. Not pictured: Inreach chair Jean Kampen

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.**