

**Are you looking for an opportunity to connect with other folks at Peace Lutheran Church for fellowship and support, meaningful conversation, scripture study, exploration of faith, and prayer?**

Small groups are a great way to do that. This fall, Peace will be rolling out a collection of short-term small groups called **FOCUS Groups**. I hope you will decide to participate and experience the blessing God has for our church community as we grow and learn, share and pray together. I'm highly encouraging all adults and older youth at Peace to be part of a FOCUS Group! If this works well, we will offer more in the future.

**What are FOCUS Groups?** They are small groups meeting once a week for 6-8 weeks focusing on a specific topic of following Jesus in daily life. Once the time is up, the group's commitment is fulfilled. We are planning six different FOCUS Groups running concurrently, each with a different topic, beginning in early October and ending before Thanksgiving. Each FOCUS Group has a facilitator (or co-facilitators) and uses a book, video, or supportive materials plus study questions for conversation. Each group will have a minimum and maximum number of participants, so please sign up early!

Check out the FOCUS Groups listed in this booklet, ponder and pray about which one fits best for you and your interests and schedule, and sign up on a Sunday morning! You will be blessed!

God's peace,  
Pastor John

"Let us FOCUS on Jesus, the source and goal of our faith."  
--Hebrews 12:2a

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# PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



## FALL 2017 FOCUS GROUPS Beginning the week of October 1<sup>st</sup>

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.*

### ***America's Original Sin* by Jim Wallis**

In *America's Original Sin*, Wallis offers a prophetic and deeply personal call to action in overcoming the racism so ingrained in American society. He speaks candidly to Christians – particularly white Christians – urging them to cross a new bridge toward racial justice and healing. This study will take a hard and honest look at racism and white privilege and explore a faithful Christian response.

**Led by Ted Johnstone & Craig Cogger**

**Mondays, 4 – 5:30 pm, Oct. 2 – Nov. 6, at Peace Lutheran Church**

### ***Life of the Beloved* by Henri Nouwen**

Initially written for a secular Jewish friend, *Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World* has become Henri Nouwen's greatest legacy to Christians around the world. This sincere testimony of the power and invitation of Christ is a great guide to a truly uplifting spiritual life in today's world. It is about claiming the truth that each of us is beloved by God and living into that truth every day.

**Led by Judy Brockhoff**

**Thursdays, 6 – 7:30 pm, Oct. 5 – Nov. 9, at Peace Lutheran Church**

### ***Spiritual Formation Workbook* by Richard Foster**

Strategies for spiritual renewal and growth, based on six dimensions of Jesus' life – the contemplative, holiness, charismatic, social justice, evangelical, and incarnational traditions. Taken together, these traditions serve as a guide to help us envision and live out a balanced spiritual life. This study offers the opportunity to try different spiritual exercises and grow in faith.

**Led by Irene Manley & Barb Hartness**

**Wednesdays, 7 – 8:30 pm, Oct. 4 – Nov. 8, at the Hartness home  
3148 S. 17<sup>th</sup> St. Tacoma**

### **Living as an Ally to Marginalized Communities**

Being an ally to marginalized communities is a difficult and challenging necessity as we work toward racial and social justice. In this FOCUS group on allyship, participants will come to understand what it means to be an ally by first examining who we are – our identities. Come learn, explore, reflect and be challenged. Please note that some weeks will require homework, which can involve reading articles and creative reflection. All materials will be provided. Our FOCUS group series will culminate with a potluck meal.

**Led by Julia & Trevor Kagochi**

**Wednesdays, 4 – 5:30 pm, Oct. 4 – Nov. 8, at Peace Lutheran Church**

### **Reflections on Faith & Justice (Young Adults)**

This Young Adult six to eight week study and reflection group will look at issues centered around social justice in present-day America through the lens of following Jesus. Young Adults (out of high school and older) who are interested should sign up and then we will work together to find a time that works best for all involved.

**Led by Bill Hanawalt & Malcolm Carroll**

**Day, Time & Location TBD**

### ***Forgotten Luther* edited by Carter Lindberg & Paul Wee**

In this 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation, explore a topic rarely highlighted: Martin Luther's voice for social-economic justice and how it connects to the Lutheran theme of justification by grace through faith. Explore Reformation efforts to provide emergency assistance for people in need and to walk alongside people on the margins toward individual and community development, and wonder how God is calling us today? How does the income disparity we see in our culture today mesh with the biblical call to share the wealth of God's creation with equity?

**Led by Tom Heavey & Bob Lee**

**Wednesdays, 7 – 8:30 pm, Oct. 4 – Nov. 8, at Peace Lutheran Church**