

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?

Join a **FOCUS Group** after Easter! Experience the blessing God has for our church community as we grow and learn, share and pray together!

What are FOCUS Groups? They are small groups meeting once a week for up to 6 weeks focusing on a specific topic of following Jesus in daily life. Once the time is up, the group's commitment is fulfilled. Each FOCUS Group has a facilitator (or co-facilitators) and uses a book, video, or other supportive materials plus study questions for conversation.

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

A Ministry of Peace Lutheran Church
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PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



Spring 2018 FOCUS GROUPS

Beginning the week of April 15

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.*

Laudito Si – On Care for our Common Home

In his second encyclical Pope Francis draws all Christians into a dialogue with every person on the planet about our common home. We as human beings are united by the concern for our planet and every living thing that dwells on it, especially the poorest and most vulnerable. Pope Francis' letter joins the body of the Church's social and moral teaching and draws on the best scientific research.

Led by Ted Johnstone & Colleen Cline

Mondays, 4 – 5:30 pm, Apr. 16 – May 21 (6 weeks), at Peace Lutheran Church

“How, Then, Shall We Live?” -- The First Followers of Jesus

What does the first wave of Christian writings – a few of Paul's letters and the Gospel of Mark – tell us about the very first followers of Jesus, before there was a New Testament or an institutional church? What kinds of communities were they creating? What were their core values and aspirations? Add what we know about the history of the period, how the New Testament came to be, and the life and work of Paul, and we begin to understand what it meant to follow Jesus before the rise of councils, creeds, doctrines, and state religions.

Led by Lynn Longfield & Chris Ferguson

Tuesdays, 5:30 – 7pm, Apr. 17 – May 22 (6 weeks), at Peace Lutheran Church

The best part of being in a FOCUS group:

“... is getting to know folks from church on a more personal level, and also engaging with them on a topic I feel passionate about.”

“Exploring ourselves. Relating with others seeking growth. The process leads us to accept and respect without criticism.”

Is Christianity Bad News for the Rejected?

What did Christ really mean when He commanded us to “love one another as I have loved you”? Based on his years with REACH Ministries, fostering a safe community for families who are rejected and isolated because of HIV/AIDS, Dan Stoehr will facilitate a broader discussion about all forms of rejection. Through this scripturally-based course, come to understand the physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual drain that rejection has on people. Learn how to minister to them so they can flourish with dignity and self-worth, despite their life circumstances.

Led by Dan Stoehr

Tuesdays, 6 – 7:30 pm at Stoehr's home, 1008 North I ("eye") St.

Two Sessions available:

Apr. 17, Apr. 24, May 1 (3 weeks)

OR May 8, May 15, May 22 (3 weeks)

On Being Mortal

Medicine has triumphed in modern times, transforming the dangers of childbirth, injury, and disease from harrowing to manageable. But when it comes to the inescapable realities of aging and death, what medicine can do often runs counter to what it should. Join a discussion on independence, caregiving and caregivers, "when should we fix and when to let go," and what matters in the end.

Led by Cynthia Edwards

Thursdays, 11:30 am – 1 pm, Apr. 19 – May 3, May 17 (4 weeks), at Peace Lutheran Church

The Book of Ephesians by the Apostle Paul

We will cover about one chapter of Ephesians each week, looking at the background, personal meanings, and how can we apply concepts to our lives. People will be expected to read about one chapter and record thoughts/verses that have meaning to the individual before each meeting.

Led by Hans Brockhoff

Saturdays, 8 – 9:15 am, Apr. 21 – May 19 (5 weeks) at Peace Lutheran Church