

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church
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THE CALL TO PEACE

Volume 12 · Issue 3 · Fall 2018

Summer Bible Adventure Was Great!!

Children and families had a blast at Peace's Summer Bible Adventure, just one day this year, July 27. The theme was God's creation, and we learned the story of God's creation from Genesis and explored each day of creation through fun experiential activities and crafts at stations. There were even live animals to see and pet! We learned that God created everything good—including us!—and that God calls us to take care of God's creation! Thanks to all who worked so hard to make it happen, especially co-coordinators Charissa Carroll and Jeanie Correa!



Summer Bible Adventure!

Rally Sunday is September 16!



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 ages 3 to 4th grade, faith class for 5th-6th grade, Feet to Faith Confirmation Ministry for 7th-8th grade, faith class for high school, and adult faith education. **Stay for ice cream sundaes after 11 am worship!**



Peace Lutheran



PEACE COMMUNITY
CENTER



Families gathered at Wright Park for Peace at the Park



Confirmation Sunday for Nathan Stoll and Kamari Carroll!!!

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow...”

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.” -- Isaiah 55:10-11

People of Peace,

For her internship, Pastor Louise Buckles and I have been reading and discussing a book called *Holy Currencies: 6 Blessings for Sustainable Missional Ministries*, by Eric Law. Eric

Law is a leader in training for cultural competency and developing leaders in multicultural faith communities. He led a training at Peace several years ago. He’s helped me think of stewardship, our calling to be good managers of all the gifts God has entrusted us, in new ways. Using Isaiah 55, he talks about the Cycle of Blessings—how everything is God’s, God gives abundantly, and as children of God we don’t keep God’s gifts but circulate them, and as we do God’s blessings are recycled to create more blessings! I like that image of blessings, like water, flowing and overflowing. That’s been my experience in life and at Peace Lutheran Church! As people freely share what God has given us, we see God bringing more and more blessings to our community!

Eric Law shares another helpful image in his book. We often talk of money as a currency. Do we think of it, though, like water (like a current flowing)? Money can only be effective in mission if it’s moving and flowing—if it’s being used for God’s work. Eric Law shares five other currencies that must all be moving and flowing for faith communities to be vibrant and missional: the currency of relationship, of truth, of wellness, of time and place, and of gracious leadership. He says, “The Cycle of Blessings is the dynamic exchanges of these six currencies, flowing inward to renew and strengthen internal relationships and increase gracious leadership capacity, and flowing outward to connect, discern the truth, and foster wellness in the wider community.”

This Fall, we will have the opportunity at Peace to explore on four Sundays some of these currencies. How are they flowing in our lives, in our church, in our community? The Fall theme will be “God’s Gifts—Handle with Care,” and on four Sundays—September 30 through October 21—we will look at money, relationships, God’s creation, and time. Sunday October 21 is our annual Commitment Sunday, and each of us will have the opportunity in worship to bring our pledge of time, talent, and treasure to God for God to use in 2019. This is our way of offering ourselves as conduits, as vessels, for God’s blessings to flow through us to others and to God’s world.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! God’s blessings to you and your family 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. 16: Rally Sunday! Sunday faith education classes begin for the Fall in a big way for all ages!

Sunday Sept. 23: Peace Community Center Sunday! 10 am Congregational Meeting focusing on Peace Community Center, with an opportunity for updates and to meet and learn more about the Center staff

October

October Weeknights, 5:30 – 6:30 pm: Community Meal Program (NOTE: change of location due to our renovation to Christian Brotherhood Academy, 2136 M.L.K. Jr Way)

Sunday Oct. 21: 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 2019

Saturday Oct. 27, 1pm: Intergenerational Trunk or Treat – Fall in Love with Jesus

November

Sunday Nov. 4: All Saints Sunday

December

Monday Dec. 24: Christmas Eve — We celebrate the birth of Jesus!

Opportunities to Serve

Ambassadors for Christ: Want to be part of a group that meets quarterly to give leadership, ideas, and strategies for all types of outreach for Jesus as we follow our calling as a congregation to reach out to our neighbors with God’s love? Our next meeting is **Saturday Sept. 15 at 11 am at Peace** with brunch provided. Questions? Ask Teresa Jackson (212-1040) or Pastor John.

Deep Roots, New Life Synod Campaign: Our Council has decided to give a gift of \$3000 over two years to the synod campaign called Deep Roots, New Life. 50% of the gift will go to our Southwestern Washington Synod for supporting and equipping leaders for theological education and for starting and renewing ministries in our synod. 40% will go to our larger ELCA’s campaign for strengthening and expanding ministries throughout the world. 10% will go to Living Stones prison congregation. Want to give a personal gift? Give to Peace Lutheran Church earmarked “Deep Roots, New Life.”

Hilltop Book Drive: Have any gently used or new books you’re willing to donate? We are collecting books for Hilltop families through the end of September. Please bring items to the church office.

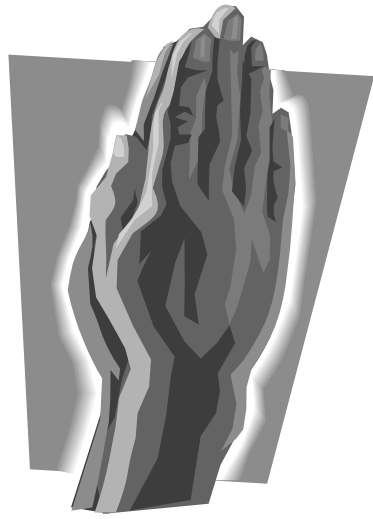
October is Hunger Response Month at Peace!

- **Bring in a Canned Food Donation.** We are collecting food for local food banks in the church office.
- **Give A Financial Gift to Fight Hunger.** Write a check to Peace Lutheran Church earmarked “Emergency Food Network” for local food banks. Or write a check to Peace earmarked “ELCA World Hunger Appeal” for global hunger relief, development, education, and advocacy.
- **October Community Meal Program.** Serve and share fellowship October weekdays, 5:30 – 6:30 pm. **Note:** Community Meals in October will be held a few blocks from Peace at Christian Brotherhood Academy, 2136 M.L.K. Jr Way.



Philippians 4:6

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: Parker Pedrick
- 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, 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 suffering from the affects of wildfires and turbulent weather
- 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 the renovation of our facility as a tool for more fruitful mission in our Hilltop neighborhood
- Our global partners: Davis family in Africa; Jane Kagochi & Solid Faith Church in Kenya; the Namibian Lutheran Church, our companion synod; the church in South Sudan; the church in China; Seigny family in Japan; Prestons in China, the Navajo Lutheran Church in Arizona
- 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

Greetings Peace Family,

"I hope everyone enjoyed their summer. We had a great time here at Peace. Faith Quest was great! The kids from McCarver enjoyed acting out Bible stories and competing in Minute to Win It games with Boys vs Girls. The boys won. I think Pastor John being on their team may have had something to do with it. The program ended with ice cream sundaes which the kids loved.

Summer Bible Adventure was a success! We had a great turnout of about 150 people for our Creation themed event, lots of amazing volunteers, live animals, pizza, smiling faces and let's not forget the nice hot sun! Thank you to all of you who volunteered to set up, clean up, lead the groups, serve food, manage the creation stations, gave donations and all of you who came to participate. I would like to give a special thanks to Jeanie Correa for her partnership in making this event possible. I could not have done it without all of her creative expertise, countless hours of cutting, creating and planning. Jeanie, you are a gem! Thank you.

In an effort to create a more meaningful, consistent and Bible centered time for the children of Peace, we have officially adopted Godly Play as our curriculum choice for the eleven o'clock Children's Worship time. We will now offer Godly play at the Sunday School hour and the Children's Worship time on Sunday's. We are excited about having this consistency and look forward to training new leaders to lead Godly play for Fall.

We are always looking for more people to join our Children's Ministry team. If you have a heart for kids, would enjoy being part of a fun team, and are able to share some of your time please contact me and we can find a good fit for you. We require all volunteers to complete a background check it's fast, easy and free!

Upcoming Events!

September 16th- Rally Sunday with Ice Cream Sundaes after worship

October 27th - Trunk or Treat "Fall in Love with Jesus"

November - Kids@Peace begins. Start date TBD

December 16th- Children's Christmas Program

Blessings, *Charissa Carroll*, Children's Outreach & Ministry Coordinator



Doing Bible skits at FaithQuest

Evangelism Ministry

Everyone at Peace is invited and encouraged to be part of our evangelism team. Sharing why you enjoy attending church, inviting others to join you, choosing to be part of our Ambassadors for Christ Team are all ways to do evangelism and share what God has done to make a difference in your life.

Our Ambassadors for Christ Team meets as a group quarterly where we share how we have served and what has worked well and what might need some changes. You may choose to just be part of the team or may choose to serve in one of the groups that have a specific service they perform. Come and see for yourself how the meeting works and enjoy brunch and perhaps decide to join a small group for service. Some of the small groups include: Sidewalk Ministry, Koinonia Corner, Door to Door Ministry, New Member Process, and Ushers/Greeters.

Each week on Wednesday for an hour, two church members sit outside the church on the corner of 21st and Cushman and met our neighbors. We offer cookies and lemonade and give a short update of what's happening at Peace. It's a fun time of getting to know people in our community and for them to get to know us. Please consider joining us at our next Ambassadors for Christ meeting. Our next one will be September 15th at 11:00 am. Check the church bulletin and website for more information. We look forward to seeing you and to give you an opportunity to share your gifts.

In God's Love, *Teresa Jackson*, Evangelism Chair

Youth Ministry



Brendan with youth participating in the mission trip.

Summer is almost officially gone, and what a summer it has been. We had a chance to get away this summer for the high school mission trip, where we were fortunate to visit and serve with Kaleo Missions in Portland, Oregon, an area that has the highest percentage of homeless per capita of any state in the United States, many of which are youth. Our young people spent time loving and serving hurting people who desperately needed to know the hope that is found only in Christ. We taught

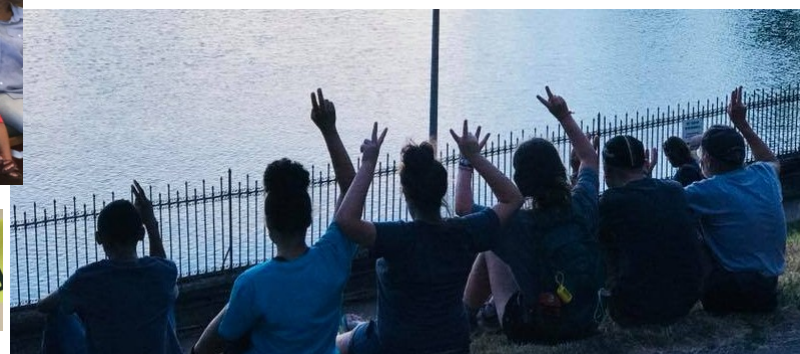
in a children's shelter, stocked food at the local food bank and served meals to people experiencing homelessness. I believe this experience changed the lives of our young people.

We said "see you later" to Aria Phillips and Juwan Banks as they completed their term of service as Vision and Call interns. Somehow we survived Summer Bible Adventure with moving everything up a month and holding it only one day. Charissa Carroll and Jeanie Correa did an amazing job at bringing it all together. It has been a great summer working side by side with Peace Community Center staff and Peace Church staff and volunteers.

As the 2018-2019 school year starts, there are some new staff people, new programs and new opportunities for all of us to use our God given gifts to serve the children, youth and families of Peace. We welcome Jae Bates as our new Vision and Call Intern. Jae will be supporting volunteer leaders for the many youth and children's ministry offerings we have at Peace, he will also be lending his gifts to the McCarver Scholars after school program. As you see Jae, welcome him and ask how you may be of support in his new role here at Peace.

In my time here, I have been appreciative of the ways that many of you have helped move forward the mission and ministry of Peace. By sharing your gifts, you have shared the challenges and blessings of living and serving one another in community. As we move forward with children's, youth and family ministry opportunities, we're going to need: meal or snack providers, one time topic teachers, women and men who have a faith to share and who will listen to and encourage our young people, drivers, chaperones, etc. I am so grateful to serve in ministry another year with the great people of Peace.

In service,
Brendan Nelson
Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry



Peace Community Center

Dear Friends of Peace,

Peace Community Center has had a busy summer with our Summer Academy programs, continuing to move through staffing transitions, and working on the building construction. Now, we're also preparing for the new school year and welcoming our new Service Team members.



During the summer, 200+ students participated in Summer Academy in our elementary, middle school, and high school programs. Students spent the summer in reading and math classes; building community together; and trying out new experiences like high ropes courses, dance, and theater. Our staff poured into students for two weeks with the high school students, four weeks with middle schoolers, and six weeks with elementary school students. It was rewarding!



This summer we also said good-bye to several staff members, and we want to take a moment to thank them for their incredible work these past several years. After being in our programs for the past three years, both Keith Blocker (our Middle School Director) and Arlicia Etienne (our High School Coordinator) are moving on from the Center. Additionally, Alyssa Urish is moving on after leading our elementary program for the last five school years. All three will be missed by staff and students. Please join us in wishing Keith, Arlicia, and Alyssa well on their next steps.

If you've been around Peace, you've also probably noticed that renovations have started on the facility. The expanded footprint is underway and very soon we will be taking off the roof, tearing into walls, and starting on updates to areas like the bathrooms and the kitchen. We are excited to be at this point and ask for your continued prayers and support during this phase of the project. We are still trying to raise \$100,000 to finish raising our \$2.6 million goal. Right now, all gifts to the campaign are being matched dollar-for-dollar, and we hope to finish fundraising by mid-fall. Thank you for all the efforts of the Peace Lutheran Church community to help bring this project to this point! We are blessed!

As we head into the school year, we encourage you to think about how you see yourself involved in the Peace ministries. This fall, you'll be able to help in the following ways:

Volunteer with our students! Contact Ashlee at volunteer@peacecommunitycenter.org

Volunteer with the construction project! Contact Ruth at ruth@peacecommunitycenter.org

Give to the campaign at our website: peacecommunitycenter.org

Pray that our students and families have a wonderful start to the school year

Peace Community Center

Opportunities for Adults to Grow in Faith This Fall

Upcoming Adult Education Sundays at 9:45 am

Sept. 16: Conversation Around Race - watch video "How We Got Here: A History of Institutional Racism in Tacoma, Washington state, and the US," led by Diane Powers

Sept. 23: No class - Congregational Meeting focused on the Peace Community Center

Sept. 30 - Oct. 21: A new series called "God's Gifts—Handle with Care." We explore our calling to be good managers of the gifts God has entrusted to us: money, relationships, creation, and time. Bible studies will guide us, and stories of serving in community will inspire us!

Community Bible Study The Community Bible Study is starting again for adults on Wednesday September 19. 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.

FOCUS Groups These are small group studies that meet on a specific topic of faith once a week for up to 6 weeks beginning in early October and ending before Thanksgiving. Check out the catalog of FOCUS Groups and sign up at the Koinonia Corner starting mid-September.

Plus other small groups (see next page)

Music Ministry

Greetings,

The summer was a wonderful time for reflection and consideration of the upcoming fall and winter calendar. With the gospel choir only rehearsing twice a month, new music continued with transcendent singings of 'He Shall feed His flock', by James Cleveland and 'Bread of Heaven' by Fred Hammond. 'Bread of Heaven', sung in many ways throughout the month of August during 5 weeks of 'Jesus is the Bread of Life' in scripture, sermon and song.

On Thursday August 16 the Church staff met for a day retreat at St Marks Lutheran Church. We were able to share our 2018-2019 vision.

Within the Worship Committee, there is a music component to be developed this year to discuss ways to enhance Music Ministry activities, and fulfill ministry goals. Inclusive music planning, for example, is of particular importance leading to the idea of providing a 'music suggestion box', that anyone could submit a song for Gospel choir or Sunday service. After review and consideration, songs could be a part of Worship. Perhaps singing or playing an instrument is not of interest, but being involved with the Music Ministry is, we invite you to share your visions with the Worship Committee. Please see or contact Major Whitten if interested.

I'm looking forward to starting the Praise Team again. They would lead opening songs and special service music. Also essential is creating a strong worshipful presence during worship, or as I've said, ushering in the atmosphere of worship. This group would rehearse separately from Gospel choir, so if you are the vocalist interested in Praise Team, let me know.

Gospel Choir is back to our regular schedule of rehearsing each Thursday evening at 7pm, starting September 6.

Angel Choir has positively infused with Godly Play, with the vision of having more of our youth involved in both activities. I will meet briefly at the beginning of Godly play time each Sunday to practice songs for that morning message, and also to be sung in 11am Angel Choir special music. It is encouraged that children attend each Sunday morning to experience this unique worship time.

Peace and Blessings,

Jimothy Rogers, Music Director

Learn More about the Ministries of the Larger ELCA

Living Lutheran is the monthly magazine of our ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America). If interested, please subscribe to it at livinglutheran.org. Cost is \$20 per year or you can view the magazine online by visiting <https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/>.



Gospel Choir during Concert Series at Peace

A Word from Pastor Louise, our Intern Pastor!

I am thrilled and honored to be your new intern pastor, and I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you. If you would like to have coffee or a meal with me please contact me at pastorlouise@peacetacoma.org or call the church office. I would also love to chat with you between services or after the 11 am service. I was born in Idaho and raised in Missoula, Montana. I moved to Washington in 2005 with my husband John and two daughters. My daughters are grown now and have blessed me with three grandchildren ages 6, 4, and 1. I have worked as a nursing assistant, bookkeeper, and in retail. In my free time I enjoy hiking, kayaking, and digital photography. When my youngest daughter was a junior in high school I decided to follow the call I had had from the age of 12 to be a pastor. Before this time I had volunteered in many different ministries including food banks, homeless and prison ministry. I have also been active in evangelism in many of the churches I have attended. I was the council president of Key Peninsula Lutheran Church the year I decided to go back to school to become an ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). I got my Associate of Arts from Tacoma Community College (TCC), my Bachelor of Arts in religion from Pacific Lutheran University (PLU), and have just finished my course work for my Master of Divinity from Pacific Lutheran Theological University of California Lutheran University (PLTS of CLU). At PLTS I did my coursework online the first year and moved to Berkeley, California for my final two years. I have also completed a concentration in Evangelism and Justice. I am looking forward to using the skills I have learned in school to serve the community in the Hilltop, and am excited to meet all members and friends of Peace.



Thanks for having me as your intern pastor. *Pastor Louise*

Small Group Opportunities to Grow and Serve This Fall

Join One of the Ongoing Small Groups to Grow in Faith and Fellowship

- Book Club: Kit Thompson: 229-5766
- College Care Package Team: Pat Ferguson: 627-1349
- Conversations Around Race: Ted Johnstone: 752-9514, Alma Cox Crawford: 752-4258 selected Sundays at 9:45 am
- Community Bible Study: Pastor John: 383-1317 ext 101, Wednesdays, 6:15 - 7:30 pm
- 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
- Women's Bible Study: 2nd Thursdays, 10 am at church
- Writing Group: Shari Shelton: 906-3769. 2nd Mondays, 6 pm at church

Who's Who on the Peace Lutheran Church Staff

Pastor: John Stroeh, ext 101, pastorjohn@peacetacoma.org

Intern Pastor: Louise Buckles, ext 114, pastorlouise@peacetacoma.org

Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry: Brendan Nelson, ext. 103, brendan@peacetacoma.org

Children's Outreach & Ministry Coordinator: Charissa Carroll, ext. 114, charissa@peacetacoma.org

Vision and Call Fellow (Children and Youth): Jae Bates

Music Director: Jimothy Rogers, ext. 148, jimothy@peacetacoma.org

Office Coordinator: Damishe Greenwood-Walker, ext. 100, plcadmin@peacetacoma.org

Interim Finance Administrator: Jean Kampen, ext. 111, jean@peacetacoma.org

Nursery Care: Rebecca Valencia

Custodian: Ana Sanchez

Stewardship Highlight: God's Gifts - Handle with Care



God's Gifts – HANDLE WITH CARE!

“Everything around us, everything is a gift from God. When we reflect on that concept it is a huge responsibility! We are tasked with using all of ourselves for God's Kingdom! I think first about our Faith what gift! That Faith is paramount to our lives serving Christ. Knowing that He has given us so much to steward and to take care of and to share....we should be reminded to Handle His Gifts with the utmost care. From our earth, to our Faith, to our money, to our individual talents and spiritual gifts.....we are to Handle those things with Care.

Our ministries at Peace and the community we share them in and around need our care, our love, our Faith.....how will you Handle your gifts with Care in the coming year? We will be celebrating our Commitment Sunday in mid October. This is the time to

reflect, pray and act! We are all invited during that time to make our financial pledges, our commitment of time, sharing our hands and feet for the work in God's world. As the summer ends and we enter fall, please prayerfully consider the blessings bestowed, be encouraged, be bold, be present in handling all of the blessings with care!

Carmen Lampman, Stewardship Team

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/>

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

Happy August! What a summer this has been: great weather and about as much activity as I can handle. (Yes, I could handle more if I didn't plan on procrastinating so often.) There is always so much to do at Peace. I was feeling a little discouraged by the things I, or we, have not finished, or have not started. I then thought of the things we have worked on and/or accomplished and now I feel much better.

FINANCE

The council has studied the suggestions of the ad hoc Finance Committee. We met with ourselves and with bankers and studied options. We have implemented most of the committee's ideas. The goal is to make reporting to you easier and to be able to see what resources we have available. By the time you read this we will have held a forum to show you the results.

INTERNSHIP

We discussed and prayed about accepting an Intern Pastor and now Pastor Louise is here with us and we look forward to sharing our ministry with her. We have formed a committee to support her in her internship.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE MINISTRY

We have received a grant from the synod and now have Teri Jelinek as our Community Resource Coordinator. A major part of this ministry is our community meals program so Teri will have challenges immediately planning for the program during the remodel project. Our goal is to have one meal a week all year in addition to the April and October program we currently have. Beyond food we hope to have social services people at the weekly meals.

BUSINESS LICENSE AND NEW NAME

The state decided that there can't be two Peace Lutheran Churches so we are now Peace Lutheran Church of Tacoma, at least on our license.

There, I feel better already. Imagine how good I could feel if I just quit putting things off! Peace,

Ben Flesher, Council President

More news from the Council:

Congregational Meeting on Sunday September 23 at 10 am This meeting will focus on the Peace Community Center. We will vote on the new Center board, hear Center updates, and meet and learn more about Center staff. Please attend. We must have a quorum of voting members to vote.

Great News! We received word that Peace Lutheran Church and Pastor John have been awarded the sabbatical grant (through the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program) we applied for a few months ago! This provides money for Pastor John and family to go on a three-month sabbatical next summer and for Peace to cover expenses in his absence and do a meaningful sabbatical learning program of our own! Praise God!

Facility Renovation Update We are now feeling the impact of the renovation of our facility on our programs and ministries. The entire project is slated to be completed by the end of this year, December 2018. The first floor restrooms adjoining the multipurpose room will be out of commission until the end of December. On Sundays please use the restrooms in the basement or across the alley in the new classroom. Very soon the kitchen will be under renovation and will not be able to be used for several months. Please be patient and flexible in this time of disruption for several months on the way to a new kitchen, renovated restrooms, spruced up multipurpose room, and new office wing, among other improvements. When the renovation is complete, we will have a wonderful tool for God's mission together!

