

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

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THE CALL TO PEACE

Volume 15 · Issue 2 · Summer 2019



**Egypt: Joseph's Journey
from Prison to Palace!**
Summer Bible Adventure
(also known as Vacation Bible School)
Monday-Thursday, July 15-18, 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 Tailgate Sunday
Community Celebration
Sunday August 25, 12:30-2:30 pm

Come join with friends and neighbors for a fun time outside on the Peace corner lot. Be part of a cultural
potluck, eat wonderful food, and share fellowship, fun, and community connections!



Peace Lutheran
Church



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!

Community Dialogue with Peace Community Center Executive Director Finalists Saturday morn-
ing, June 15. This is a key forum for church participation and feedback in the process toward a new E.D.

Help with Summer Bible Adventure It is July 15-18, 5-8pm, and we need your help! We're looking for
volunteers, donations, and are counting on you to invite your friends & family. A list of needs and volun-
teer positions will be posted soon. Questions? Ask Brendan Nelson or Jeanie Correa (253-278-3390).

Community Resources Ministry Peace offers a free community meal with community resources Fridays
5:30-6:30 pm. Want to help?

- If you know a group or an organization who would like to prepare and serve a meal, contact Teri
Jelinek (206-718-6109).
- If you have a Fred Meyer rewards card you can now link it to Peace. Just go to www.fredmeyer.com.
Go to community rewards and either enter Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church or key in Fk117.
Then click enroll and the church will receive a quarterly check to help pay costs for this new program.

Interested in Teaching Middle or High School Sunday School? Please contact Brendan Nelson.

Church Directory Visit the Koinonia Corner to pick up a supplement to the pictorial directory and sign
up to receive an email of the pictorial directory and updated church contact list.

Pastor’s Reflection

People of Peace,

“And I gave them the Sabbath, a day of rest every seventh day, as a symbol between them and me, to remind them that it is I, the Lord, who sanctifies them, that they are truly my people.” -- Ezekiel 20:12

We read in the Bible about God’s weekly gift of the **Sabbath**, a day off work, a day for rest and relationship—nurturing loving relationships with God and our loved ones. Sabbath-keeping is a way of life, a rhythm of our lives that makes space for rest, worship, and healthy relationships and that shapes us as God’s people living in trust and gratitude to God. Summer can be a time to explore ways to make Sabbath-keeping a regular part of our lives, as we are able given our particular life and family circumstances.

The word **Sabbatical** is related to Sabbath. A sabbatical is a break from work for an extended period for the purpose of rest and renewal. I am grateful that Peace Lutheran Church has granted me a sabbatical after six more years of service to our congregation as pastor. Just as the Sabbath day is a day of rest after six days, a sabbatical is three months of rest after six years. It is meant to give pastors time away from full-time pastoral ministry to reflect on the call to ministry, the pastor’s relationship with God and God’s people, and theology and practice that will sharpen congregational ministry.



I will be away from Peace from May 21 – August 21 on sabbatical. The theme is “Mixed Plate: Savoring Culture.” The "mixed plate" is a Hawaiian lunch of white rice, macaroni salad, and several meat or fish entrees--something from many cultures brought together to make a delicious meal. My immediate family is a "mixed plate," bringing together my German/Euro-American heritage, Leigh's Chinese American/Hawaiian heritage, and our children's Chinese heritage. Our church family and Hilltop neighborhood are also a "mixed plate" of people of different ethnicities and cultural backgrounds. We wish to deepen our appreciation of who we are and look for ways God is blessing us through our multiethnic faith community. Please pick up a sabbatical overview sheet on the table outside the sanctuary for more details. You’re invited to follow my family’s sabbatical journey on our blog: pastorjohnleighsabbaticalmixedplate.blogspot.com.

Our congregation will also be on a journey of renewal through several special events and experiences under the same theme. In worship and adult education, we will hear from individuals of the Peace community sharing faith from their cultural roots and appreciating multiethnic relationships. We will engage a book on multiethnic ministry, explore our multiethnic heritage in a weekend workshop, and grow in life and ministry together as we celebrate the cultural diversity of Peace.

We’re entering the season of Pentecost in the church year, the season of growing in faith by the power of the Spirit. I pray that you will let God’s Spirit be at work in your life this summer, that you will explore Sabbath-keeping, find regular rhythms of rest and renewal, and grow in appreciation for your cultural heritage and our multiethnic faith community!

God’s peace,
Pastor John



Baptism of Myrah Ballentine’s children on Easter Sunday!



Peace Summer Calendar

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

| June | |
|-------------------------|--|
| June 2nd (Sunday) | Blessing of Graduates in worship |
| June 8th (Saturday) | Congregational Retreat “Gifts & Ministry in Multiethnic Community” 9-3 pm |
| June 9th (Sunday) | Pentecost Sunday, Special Guest Preacher and Teacher Stacy Kitahata |
| June 15th (Saturday) | Community Dialogue with Peace Community Center Exec. Director finalists |
| June 16th (Sunday) | Father’s Day breakfast 9:30 am |
| June 22th (Saturday) | Native American Blanket Exercise 1-3 pm |
| July | |
| July 15th-18th | Summer Bible Adventure 5 - 8 pm |
| July 29th - August 22nd | McCarver Scholars Elementary Summer Academy |
| August | |
| August 18th | Brunch Celebration of Pastor Louise’s time at Peace 9:30 am |
| August 25th | Welcome Home Pastor John & Family; Cultural Potluck and Tailgate Sunday 12:30 pm |
| September | |
| September 8th (Sunday) | Rally Sunday! Sunday School kick-off for the fall at 9:45 am! |

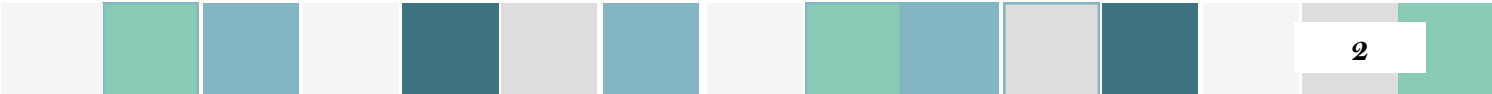
From Pastor Louise

People of Peace, My life has been full these last few months. I have been preparing to be the pastor at Peace while Pastor John is on sabbatical. I am looking forward to serving in this capacity, and consider in an honor to be asked to journey with each of you as the congregation takes the time to explore the diversity that is part of Peace. I have also been working to get everything in for the final process of my journey to be an ordained minister in the ELCA. This process was finalized on May 2nd when the Southwestern Washington Synod Candidacy Committee approved me to be an ordained minister in the ELCA upon my first call. This means that once a congregation decides to hire me, and offers me a call, I will become ordained as a minister in the ELCA.

Before I am called by a congregation, I get the opportunity to spend three months with you. Through these three months we will be taking the time to explore our diversity, and hearing the gospel through the eyes of our diverse congregation. Romans 12:4-5 says, “For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.”

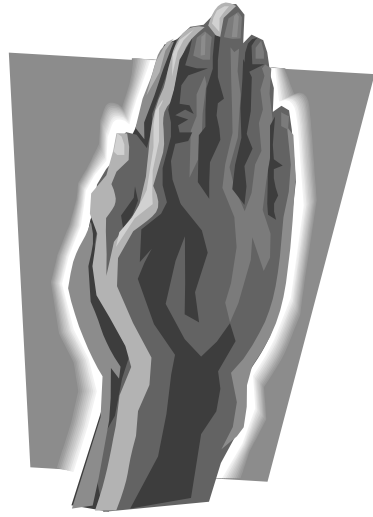
The gift of diversity will be explored, celebrated, and enjoyed throughout the summer. I am looking forward to the journey with you.

God’s peace,
Pastor Louise



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: Ieisha McIntyre, Aya Hamaoka, John-Henry Hamaoka, Jasmine Ballentine, Jayden Lyle, Micah Lyle, Zoie Creso
- Confirmed in faith: Jamison Carroll, Jayden Lyle
- 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, the church in South Sudan, the church in China, Preston family in China, 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



Hello Families of Peace,

In the past few months, the Godly Play team has been hard at work as we make the transition between coordinators, and it is my privilege and blessing to be working with them and our children to create a worship space that is welcoming and inclusive. We've been growing, with new friends joining us all the time, which means there are a lot more ideas to share!

Moving forward into the summer, we hope to put together a few activities that will be engaging not just for the kids but for families as well, for we understand that each of our children exist within a framework of loving support that should be celebrated.

On the wall of our classroom, we've placed new banners for the kids' art to be displayed, and when they come in, they swell with joy to see it there. When their little faces light up, it is a wonder to see. I look forward to the months ahead, and the time I will be blessed to spend with each of them.

We are always looking for volunteers to come down and assist. Whether it be just to stand by the door and greet the children, to assist with art supplies during response time, or to even tell the story, we could use your hands! If you would like to learn more, or if you have any questions at all about Godly Play and Angel Choir, please contact me at: annika@peacetacoma.org.

Brightest Blessings

Annika Maxwell,

Children's Sunday Morning Coordinator



Women's Ministry

Each month on the second Thursday of the month, women in our church meet for bible study at 10 am. We use the bible study lessons found in the Gather magazine. Copies of the lesson are provided for those who do not have access to the magazines. We bring our lunches to eat and fellowship together after each study. The church provides coffee and tea. We enjoy the time we have together to learn, fellowship and grow. Our hope is that you will join us. We would love to have you.

You may enjoy reading a bible study online. Copy and paste the link into your browser:

www.gathermagazine.org/bible-study/free-bible-studies/

In His Love, *Teresa Jackson*



Music Ministry

Blessings to all! I remain humble and honored for having this opportunity to lead the ministry of music at Peace. I have a long history in the ministry of gospel music spanning over 60 years. I have been blessed and energized enough to be able to return to the forefront of music ministry. The musical ministry of Peace Lutheran Church remains well known in Tacoma and abroad. And it is our hope to keep that recognition alive and growing.

Peace Lutheran music ministry is evolving and now in addition to gospel music we now have Jae Bates as our praise and worship leader on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. Another part of our evolution is that we have been inviting anyone who can play a musical instrument to play in Sunday service. We have also been inviting soloist to lead congregational songs as well. All of this is a blessing!



While Pastor John is on sabbatical we must continue growing. We are always looking to recruit choir members, musicians and song leaders. All are welcomed to join and participate. Choir practices are held on Thursdays at 7pm and all skill levels are welcomed. Musicians and song leaders are welcomed to practice Sunday songs every Thursday at 6pm and every Sunday at 10am. We are placing a signup sheet in the Koinonia Corner for anyone interested in playing a musical instrument or leading congregational songs during service. After you sign up someone from the music ministry will be in touch to get you scheduled in a service of your choosing. Please take a moment and signup in the Koinonia Corner. All levels of voices and all kinds of instruments are welcomed. Everyone who has been participating already will not need to sign up we will keep you in rotation. And we thank you for what you've done so far!

In the fall we will began the search for a full time permanent Director of Music Ministry at Peace. If you are or know of anyone who might be interested in this position please keep a look out for the official announcement this fall. Please continue to pray that we are able to find a person who loves the Lord and is spirit filled to lead our Music Ministry.

Dorothy White
Interim Music Director

Peace Community Center

Thank you for your continued support as we move toward summer! It is an exciting time of year in our programs as our students get ready to finish strong. We are celebrating all of our Scholars who are transitioning into the next levels of their education, whether it is the elementary students moving to middle school, middle school students entering high school, and our high school students who are graduating and discovering what is next for them.

We want to thank everyone who came to support our scholars at our annual dinner event, Learners to Leaders 2019! Thank you for helping us raise \$122,000+ this year for McCarver and Hilltop Scholars, and for listening to incredible students share their stories. We are so honored to have your support at this event!

We are excited to announce that Lianna Shepherd is our new Development Director! You may remember Lianna from her time on our development team in the past, and we are looking forward to welcoming her back to Peace. The hiring process for our next Executive Director is continuing and we expect to have them named this summer.

Looking into the next few months, our program staff are excited to be planning our Summer Academies 2019. Scholars at every level will have the opportunity to build on their reading, writing, math, and science while school is out to stay on track academically. We are planning for a summer of fun, learning, and growth!

Do you want to get more updates about Peace Community Center and our scholars? Follow us on social media, or join our mailing/emailing list by contacting us at info@peacecommunitycenter.org. Thank you for supporting Hilltop Scholars!



Intergenerational Outreach & Vision and Call Ministry

Dear People of Peace,

Happy Spring! The sun is here and we are so grateful for it. Our big intergenerational events this spring went really well and we are so happy that many of you were able to help out at or attend Fat Tuesday Paint Night and our Easter Eggstravaganza. So much wonderful art was made at the Paint Night and the Eggstravaganza was a hit! It was wonderful to even see many of our McCarver Scholars and their families in attendance.

Kids @ Peace has been going strong with high attendance and strong engagement through the Easter season. We are winding down and our last day of Kids @ Peace will be May 10th where we will be having a small party to celebrate the end.

Thank you so much for your continued support of your youth!

Jae Bates, Intergenerational Outreach Coordinator and Vision & Call Fellow



Easter Sunday at Peace Lutheran Church



Children's message - bring out Alleluia!



Easter Cross



Irene Manley's hula dance of praise!



Hearing the good news: Christ is risen!



Gospel Choir singing praise!



A wonderful Easter breakfast!

Who's Who on the Peace Lutheran Church Staff

- Pastor: John Stroeh, 253-383-1317 ext 101, pastorjohn@peacetacoma.org
- Sabbatical Pastor: Louise Buckles, 253-383-1317 ext 114, pastorlouise@peacetacoma.org
- Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministry: Brendan Nelson, 253-383-1317 ext 103, brendan@peacetacoma.org
- Children's Sunday Morning Coordinator: Annika Maxwell, annika@peacetacoma.org
- Intergenerational Outreach Coordinator and Vision & Call Fellow: Jae Bates, jae@peacecommunitycenter.org
- Interim Music Director: Dorothy White, dotwhite1936@gmail.com
- Nursery Attendant: Rebecca Valencia
- Office Coordinator: Damishe Greenwood-Walker, 253-383-1317 ext 100, plcadmin@peacetacoma.org
- Finance Coordinator: Jenny Haferbecker, jenny@peacetacoma.org
- Custodian: Ana Sanchez

Youth Ministry

Peace Family,

As we enter into an extremely busy summer, 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.

We have had many opportunities this season where youth and adults had the chance to connect. It all started with an amazing intergenerational paint night that included an extensive pancake bar, music and beautiful pieces of art being created, we then had a series of engaging activities each Wednesday during Lent, and finally rounded things out, with an awesome Easter breakfast provided by our youth. These events gave youth and adults the opportunity to share and engage in fruitful dialogue with one another. There will be more events like these scheduled in the coming months for us all to come together in the spirit of love and unity.



Lastly, I am gearing up to take high school youth to Eastern Washington June 23-28 for a meaningful service immersion Mending Wings Ministry. This ministry addresses the pressing needs of elders and families experiencing poverty in their community. Our youth will have the opportunity to do some hands on ministry on the grounds of the Yakama Reservation. I always look forward to this time and we truly do God's work with our hands. I solicit your prayers as we embark on an amazing journey and ask that you keep our young people encouraged.

Thank you all for the continued love and support. Peace and Blessings,

Brendan Nelson, Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry

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: Get in Where You Fit in

Pastor John’s sabbatical this summer is a great time for each of us at Peace to “get in where we fit in” as we serve together in Jesus’ name at Peace Lutheran Church. What gifts of time, talent, or treasure would you like to share through the church? Here are some ideas:

- Sign up on the schedule at the Koinonia Corner to help in worship on a Sunday by reading scripture, ushering, acolyting, song leading, playing a musical instrument, or serving as Assisting Minister. Need training? Please speak with Pastor Louise or Brendan Nelson.
- Speak with Inreach coordinator Jeanie Correa (jeanblueii@gmail.com, 253-278-3390) about ways you can help care for people in the Peace community. We especially need help with refreshments and clean up after 11 am worship and with care ministry (visits, rides, cards, other areas of service).
- Help out with Summer Bible Adventure July 15-18. It’s all hands on deck as we transform the church building into Egypt and hear the story of Joseph. We need actors, shopkeepers, cooks, small group leaders, and more! Contact Brendan Nelson or Jeanie Correa to jump in!
- Be an ambassador for Jesus and invite a friend, family members, coworker, or neighbor to worship or to an event in the life of the church this summer. Lots of great ministry opportunities are happening!



Sabbatical Plans

Peace has granted Pastor John a three-month sabbatical after six more years of service as pastor to our congregation. He, Leigh, Luke and Joy will be away May 21 – August 21, 2019. A generous Lilly clergy renewal grant will support their sabbatical and our congregational program.

What is a sabbatical? A sabbatical gives a pastor time away from full-time pastoral ministry to reflect on the call to ministry, the pastor’s relationship with God and God’s people, and theology and practice that will sharpen congregational ministry.

What happens while Pastor John is away? During the sabbatical, Peace will journey with the same theme he is exploring, “Mixed Plate: Savoring Culture.” In worship and adult education, we will hear from individuals of the Peace community sharing faith from their cultural roots and appreciating multiethnic relationships. We will engage a book on multiethnic ministry, explore our multiethnic heritage in a weekend workshop, and grow in life and ministry together as we celebrate the cultural diversity of Peace.

How will the pastoral work get done? Pastor Louise will be the pastoral point person during the sabbatical. Two resource pastors, Rev. Lynn Longfield and Rev. Jim Riede, will support Pastor Louise. Brendan Nelson, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry, will provide key church leadership. Peace’s Care Ministers will provide pastoral care, under the leadership of Jeanie Correa. The sabbatical is a great time for the whole congregation to step in and serve where needed. So “get in where you fit in”!

What are some highlights in Peace’s life here at home during the sabbatical?

- **Sermons and Adult Education:** Listen as individuals from Peace reflect on scripture, share faith from their cultural roots, and appreciate multiethnic relationships.
- **Resource Book:** Explore multiethnic ministry with the help of *The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb*, by Rev. Eric H. F. Law, Executive Director of the Kaleidoscope Institute.
- **Pentecost Weekend Events (June 8-9):** “Gifts and Ministry in Multiethnic Community” Saturday workshop (9-3 pm) led by Stacy Kitahata of Krista Foundation for Global Citizenship (lunch provided). Pentecost Sunday: Stacy Kitahata preaches and teaches.
- **Native American Blanket Exercise (Sat. June 22):** Learn about the Native American experience, led by Rev. Irvin Porter, Associate for Native American Congregational Support, Presbyterian Church (USA).
- **Welcome Home (Sunday August 25):** Cultural Potluck/Tailgate Sunday

From the Church Council

Dear People of Peace,

What a blessing to begin using the new and improved facilities now that the construction project is completed! When Council had the pleasure of serving a community meal, we experienced how well the kitchen and multipurpose room enhance our ministries. It is a welcoming environment for our Community Resources Ministry to provide access and support as well as meals each week to people in our neighborhood.

The use of the kitchen and multipurpose room symbolize the relationship between Peace Lutheran Church and Peace Community Center. The purchase of the Cushman House for Affordable Housing, and conversations on Church-related Center bylaws, are additional examples of Church and Center working together to serve our community. We seek God’s guidance to continue strengthening the connection and grow into our vision of a Church and Center Partnership.

During Pastor John’s well-deserved sabbatical, we will miss him, Leigh, Luke, and Joy. Yet we are excited to see what God will do in this new season of our life at Peace. We see God’s hand in bringing Pastor Louise to us as Intern Pastor, and having her serve as Sabbatical Pastor. We look forward to exploring the gifts and stories of the wonderful people in our congregation.

The Council continues to be amazed at the work of the Holy Spirit. We appreciate your prayers, and we continue to lift up prayers for all of you.

God’s Peace, *Kit Thompson*, Council President



Your 2019 Church Council: President – Kit Thompson; Vice President – Victoria Frimpong; Treasurer – Ben Flesher; Secretary – Ziyadah Gillis; Community Resources – Carmen Lampman; Education – Kellie Campbell; Evangelism/Outreach – Hans Brockhoff; Inreach – Jeanie Correa; Stewardship – Matt Klump; Worship – Major Whitten; Youth – Karena Gillis

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.**