

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

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THE CALL TO PEACE

Volume 18 ▪ Issue 2 ▪ Summer 2022



Peace Lutheran Church Worship

We worship in person Sundays at 8:30 & 11 am. We continue for now to use masks and increased airflow to reduce risk. Join live stream Sunday worship at 11 am on the church Facebook page, or check out the worship video later on the church Facebook page or YouTube channel.

Summer Outdoor Worship

Outside on the corner lot (21st and S. Ainsworth). Two Sundays in the summer:

July 17 at 11 am AND August 14 (with Cookout Fellowship) at 11 am

(no 8:30 am worship on these two Sundays)

Bring a chair (or use one provided). Give thanks to God! We will also live stream these services.

Peace at the Park

Wednesday June 29 and Wednesday July 20, 5:30-7:30 pm

Wright Park, 501 S I St, Tacoma

Everyone is invited to gather at Wright Park with Peace friends, neighbors, and the community. Bring your own picnic food items to share. Bring your own utensils. Kids, enjoy the spray park and playground. If you want, bring outdoor play items (balls, games, etc.) to share.



Peace Lutheran
Church



PEACE COMMUNITY
CENTER

Compassion Camp

Summer Bible Adventure!

(also known as Vacation Bible School)

Three days! Tuesday-Thursday, July 26-28, 5:30-8 pm

Children & families, share a meal, do activities, have fun, and learn how God calls us to show compassion to yourself, others, and the world. **Free!** Registration will start mid-summer.

Contribute to a New Peace Devotional: Calling all artists, writers, photographers, song writers, crafters of many things, & more, to publish your works in a new book. Submit your piece or direct questions to Shari Shelton at 8ssheltonz8@gmail.com.

Interested in Learning More about Faith in God and Service through Peace Lutheran Church?

Want to Become a Member of Peace? Join a **Saturday class on June 11 from 10 – 2:30 pm** called “Foundations of Faith and Peace” exploring marks of being a follower of Jesus and what it means to serve him in and through Peace Lutheran Church and Community Center. This class is in person wearing masks. Lunch provided. Interested? Talk to Pastor John. New members will be received in worship on Sunday, June 26.

A Space of Peace: We're in a time of reimagining the empty space in the sanctuary corner where a light shines. What expression of faith and/or art could be present there that communicates God's unconditional welcome and abundant love for all in our diverse community? Please share your ideas by calling or emailing Pastor John or Brendan Nelson.

Pastor’s Reflection

People of Peace,
“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.”
-- Ephesians 2:13-14

Tragically, in our nation, we have countless reminders of our human sin and hostility toward one another. The horrific racially motivated shooting at the Tops grocery store in Buffalo is another—hatred of the other spills out in violence as people are targeted for their skin color, deemed unworthy of living. Of 13 people shot, 11 were Black, 10 died. Human sin and hostility are not just found in racist individuals who carry out brutal acts; human sin and hostility are present in racism found in systems and institutions in our nation that hold back and hold down people of color and destroy our communities. We need the peace of Jesus. The church has been silent and complicit for too long; we need to take a lead role in seeking racial justice and peacemaking. We’re called to live as Jesus’ peacemakers in our world.

Peace Lutheran Church has a foundational commitment to anti-racism. Our Future Directions help us live into this commitment, and we’re on the journey. Our recent Lent Season of Prayer helped us experience God’s presence and guidance as we work to understand, address, and dismantle racism. We’re making plans to expand our housing ministry by building a two-bedroom DADU (detached accessory dwelling unit) in the backyard of one of our properties. Providing affordable housing in our gentrifying neighborhood combats ongoing displacement of families of color, a racial justice issue. We had a rite of retiring the white European-depicted Jesus statue as we examine symbols in our worship space and what they communicate. We’re leaving that space vacant for awhile as we open ourselves to reimagine it in the direction of God’s abundant welcome for all. We hosted a powerful Healing Racism gathering with Rev. Dr. Gregory Drumwright, nationally recognized educator and advocate for equity, higher education, access and social justice. At the gathering Bishop Gwendolyn Coates shared how our hearts are often filled with hatred, selfishness, and racism. She called us to make room in our hearts for love, acceptance, and welcome for all. And she suggested, the vacant space in our sanctuary helps Peace Lutheran Church make room for what God is doing next in our midst. Our symbols hold meaning and power. Our actions speak volumes to the community.

The power of racism is great in our society, but the power of the gospel of Jesus is greater. Amen? Living into our commitment to anti-racism is about following Jesus’ call to love our neighbors. It’s our response to the gospel. It’s what God is calling us to do in our context. It’s our ministry of place. How will you lean in to this commitment? How will you make room in your heart? We’re learning, growing, serving, and acting together.



In the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace who calls us to act for justice and be peacemakers,

Pastor John

The rite of retiring the Jesus statue and reimagining the space in the direction of God’s abundant welcome for all.



Rev. Dr. Gregory Drumwright at the Healing Racism Gathering at Peace



Peace Summer Calendar

June	
June 5th (Sunday)	Pentecost Sunday, Blessing of Graduates, 11 am Confirmation Sunday!!
June 11th (Saturday), 10-2:30 pm	Foundations of Faith and Peace Class (also for New Members)
June 12th (Sunday)	End of School Year Blessing
June 19th (Sunday)	Father’s Day, Blessing of Charissa Carroll Completing Seminary and Kamari Carroll completing her Vision and Call internship
June 26th (Sunday)	New Member Welcome
June 29th (Wednesday), 5:30-7:30 pm	Peace at the Park (Wright Park, 501 S I St)
July	
July 5th-9th	Love to the Local—youth servant learning week in the Hilltop
July 17th (Sunday)	11 am Outdoor Worship at Peace
July 20th (Wednesday), 5:30-7:30 pm	Peace at the Park (Wright Park, 501 S I St)
July 26th-28th (Tuesday-Thursday), 5:30-8 pm	Summer Bible Adventure “Compassion Camp”
August	
August 14th (Sunday)	11 am Outdoor Worship at Peace followed by Cookout Fellowship time
September	
September 11th (Sunday)	Rally Sunday (Sunday School starts again)

Opportunities to Grow in Faith

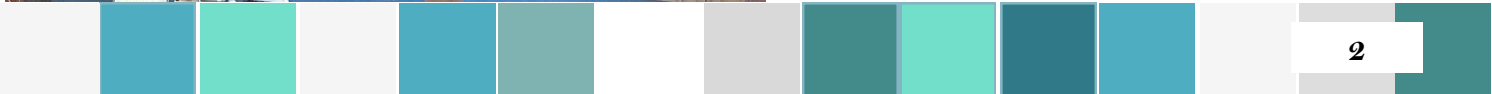
Faith Opportunities Sundays 9:45-10:45 am (in person)
+ 3 year-olds to 4th grade Godly Play children’s Bible story time (basement classroom)
+ Adult & Youth class (multipurpose room): “Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts: God’s Vision for Your Life.” 6-week series for adults and youth Sundays through June 26. Want to discover your passion and purpose? Want to learn how to live your faith more effectively? Want to answer God’s call? Awaken the connection between your gifts and calling in life! Participant guides are \$10. (Please let Pastor John or Brendan know if the cost is a hardship, and we will provide you one.)

Community Bible Study Pastor John leads a Community Bible Study using Zoom on **Thursdays, 1-2 pm**, on the Bible readings for worship the following Sunday. We read scripture, share conversation, and pray as we listen for God to speak to us and through us. Email Pastor John for the Zoom link. The Community Bible Study will take a break in July and August.

Christ in Our Home Would you like to receive a copy of the daily devotional “Christ in Our Home.” Contact Damishe in the office, and she will mail you one.

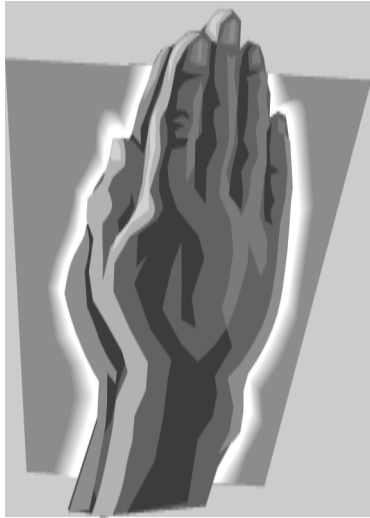
Godly Play Videos for Children Parents, have you checked out the Peace Lutheran Church YouTube channel? You will find Godly Play Bible story videos with wondering questions to use at home with your children. Questions? Contact Jayna Detweiler.

Middle and High School Youth: Fun summer activities are being planned. Jump in and participate! Please contact Jayna Detweiler.



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...

- All graduates of Peace Church & Center, including seminary grads Pastor Jae Bates & Charissa Carroll
- The newly baptized: Joy Stroeh, Rosie Detweiler
- Confirmands: Cherish Barden, Jeremiah Carroll, Audrey Preston
- The Peace community as we reach out in love to Hilltop families this summer

Those who are hurting...

- All affected by the pandemic especially the ill and families, medical professionals, public health workers, governments and agencies working to stop this health threat, our congregation and community
- Communities of color impacted disproportionately by COVID; all who suffer racial injustice
- 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 Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria, South Sudan, Iraq, the Holy Land, and Central African Republic

Our work...

- Our church as we live into our Future Directions, grounded in a commitment to anti-racism
- 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, Seigny 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.

Women's Ministry



Dear Peace Family,

Women's Bible Study will begin the fall. In the past, we have not met during the summer due to low attendance from people on vacation and lots of activities going on. Continue to enjoy the study in the Gather magazine until we get together again.

Blessings,

Teresa Jackson, Women's Ministry

Community Resources Ministry

The Community Resource Ministry is now more than three years old and for more than two years we have been providing meals to go. We use the resource cart to provide local resources for our guests when they pick up their dinners. This past Friday I got to experience how we are helping those in need. A woman who was badly bruised came for three dinners as she had just left the hospital and had her children in the car with her. As I gave her the dinners she asked for names of domestic abuse shelters. After I gave her some names and addresses a man who was eating his to go meal pulled me aside and gave me the address of the Salvation Army shelter for women and children.



Thanks to the support of Peace Lutheran Church we have been able to continue this program in the most adverse conditions. We are now looking for a Resource Minister with a sociology background who can establish ongoing relations with our guests. Your support is so appreciated and needed. We always need meal providers and servers. If you want to be involved please contact Teri Jelinek at tljelinek50@gmail.com.

Outreach Ministry Update

With nicer weather on the way I look forward to visiting on the sidewalk with neighbors in our community. It's an opportunity to be available to them to hear how they are doing and for us to offer information about what is happening at our Church and Community Center.

God bless you!

Teresa Jackson

Music Ministry

Hello Peace Family,

Entering the summer season, I am reminded of self-care. At this time, everyone seems to know someone or have personally contracted Covid 19. Caring for ourselves is more important now than ever. I have had to carve out time and find space to decompress especially since I've been working from home. I have been trying to eat balanced meals, get enough sleep, and include physical activity in my daily routine. I have had to set realistic expectations and give myself and others grace. I have been intentional about reconnecting with things I enjoy and I am reminded to be kind to myself. How are you taking care of yourself?

Here are some sayings to think about regarding Self-Care:

- “Self-care is not an expense. It’s an investment.”
- “Self-care is non-negotiable. Show up for yourself every day.”
- “You carry so much love in your heart. Give some to yourself.” R.Z.
- “Teachers need to take care of themselves in order to be able to take care of their students.”

Do you have any sayings you can add?



Well as we continue to move forward in the Music Department, I want to give a special SHOUT OUT to the musicians Paul Brown (bass player) William Hall (drummer), and Austin Shelton (saxophonist),



Brad Wills (pianist, song leader, media), Kathy Hanawalt (pianist), Sandra Puckett (pianist), and to all the folks that make the live stream happen each week, for your continued faithfulness and support. Also, special thanks to all the song leaders which are a huge support to the music ministry. You all using your musical talent adds flavor to the worship experience and we are able to keep moving forward because of you.

God bless, *Twylla Moore*, Music Director

Opportunities to Serve

Regular Offering to Peace: Thank you for your generous and ongoing giving of financial support to Peace Lutheran Church! Please share your offering in person Sundays at the Welcome Table or send offering by mail or electronic means or donate on the church website. If you would like to set up regular online giving, contact the church office (253-383-1317).

Interested in Serving in Children’s or Youth Ministry at Peace? Please contact Jayna Detweiler (503-984-0890, jayna@peacetacoma.org). We especially need caring adults to help with children’s Godly Play Sunday School and worship.

Help Lead and Serve in Worship: Interested in assisting in Sunday worship as an assisting minister, usher, reader, greeter, or audio-visual assistant? Training will be provided. Please contact Pastor John.

Community Meals: Friday Community Meals are “grab and go” style at the door every Friday from 5:30-6:30 pm. We also share information about community resources and services. Want to help? Contact Teri Jelinek at 206-718-6109.



Peace Community Center

Dear People of Peace,

Thank you for your continued support as we move toward summer! It is an exciting time of year in our programs as our students work to have a strong finish to the school year. 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 continue to plan engaging hands-on learning experiences for our Scholars at every level. For example, during Spring break, our elementary McCarver Scholars met with representatives from Bliss Creamery and learned about the behind-the-scenes production of ice cream. Then they put their knowledge to the test, using the scientific method to hypothesize how much of each ingredient to use, to make their own ice cream in Ziploc bags. Everyone had a great time with this sweet enrichment activity!



Kennedy (3rd grade) has mixed her ice cream ingredients and is ready to shake them up!

Looking into the next few months, our staff are excited to plan action-packed Summer Academies. 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 have fun field trips, guest speakers, and STEAM enrichment activities planned across all programs.

We are grateful for your continued partnership as our Scholars continue to learn and grow this school year and beyond! Thank you for the many ways you show up for our community.

Sincerely,

Peace Community Center

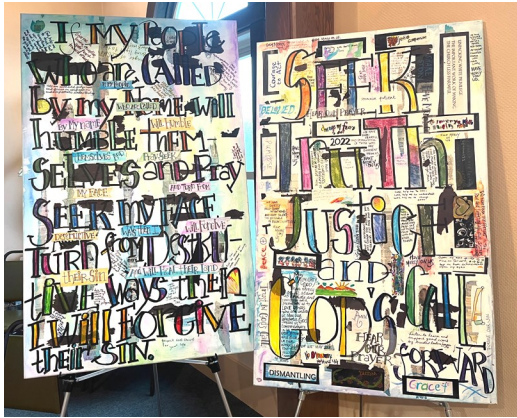
Goodbye and God’s Blessings, Pastor Jae!



Pastor Jae Bates has now completed his pastoral internship at Peace Lutheran Church, including his Masters of Divinity through Luther Seminary. On Sunday May 15, his last Sunday at Peace, we blessed and sent him into his new chapter in life after Peace. He now lives in Minneapolis. We are grateful for his service and leadership among us!



What's Been Happening at Peace Lutheran Church?



Lent Season of Prayer art reflection activity



Easter Cross



Easter Eggstravaganza!



Lent Neighborhood Prayer Walk led by Brendan Nelson



Youth serving on Feet to Faith retreat



Easter Egg Hunt!

Who's Who on the Peace Lutheran Church Staff

Pastor: John Stroeh, 253-383-1317 ext 101, pastorjohn@peacetacoma.org
Director of Community Engagement and Outreach: Brendan Nelson, 253-383-1317 ext 103, brendan@peacetacoma.org
Children's, Youth & Intergenerational Coordinator: Jayna Detweiler, 253-383-1317 ext 104, jayna@peacetacoma.org
Music Director: Twylla Moore, twylla@peacetacoma.org
Nursery Attendant: Rebecca Valencia, rebecca@peacetacoma.org
Temporary Office Coordinator: Damishe Greenwood-Walker, 253-383-1317 ext 100, plcadmin@peacetacoma.org
Community Resources Coordinator: Teri Jelinek, tljelinek50@gmail.com
Finance Coordinator: Jenny Haferbecker, jenny@peacetacoma.org
Custodian: Ana Sanchez

Children and Youth Ministry Update

Hello Families,

As we enter Summer, Children's' ministry is excited to open Sunday School hour at 9:45 AM on Sundays and Children's Worship during 11 AM Service. We are looking for Volunteers to help with Children's Worship, so if you are interested please reach out.

Summer Bible Adventure will be back this summer with 3 evenings July 26th-28th; children will be invited to join Compassion Camp where we will be learning about compassion for ourselves, others, and the world.

We are also excited to celebrate our Youth getting confirmed on June 5th during Service. I will be working to plan summer hangouts for Middle & High Schoolers, if you have interest in helping host an event I would love to work with you.

Jayna Detweiler, Children's, Youth & Intergenerational Coordinator



Using the church van to deliver meals and hygiene supplies and replenish Little Free Libraries on the Feet to Faith youth retreat.

Inreach Ministry

Greetings.



I am praying that everyone is doing well and getting back to as normal as possible.... But do remember COVID is not over, and we still need to be careful. Our Care Team recently gathered together to talk about our commitment to keeping in touch with Peace members and their family. We offer all kinds of caring options, such as visiting people who are sick, in the hospital, running small errands, offer rides to doctor's appointments if needed, and we even will bring you communion. PLEASE reach out to us if you need something or you know someone needs assistance, prayers or love.

Starting in September, Centering Prayer will again be offered, and I am hoping to have a Prayer Minister there to pray with you. Centering Prayer is an opportunity to just come to the Church, sit in silence (quiet background music), light a candle, talk to God, etc. Centering Prayer emphasizes prayer as a personal relationship with God and as a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Him. It will be a Saturday, and more details will be provided as we get closer.

Celebration cards for birthdays and anniversaries are being sent out. If you are not getting one, please, let me know. To all, please, please be safe. You are dearly loved by all.

Peace and Love to all, *Jeanie Correa*, Care Ministry, and Inreach Coordinator

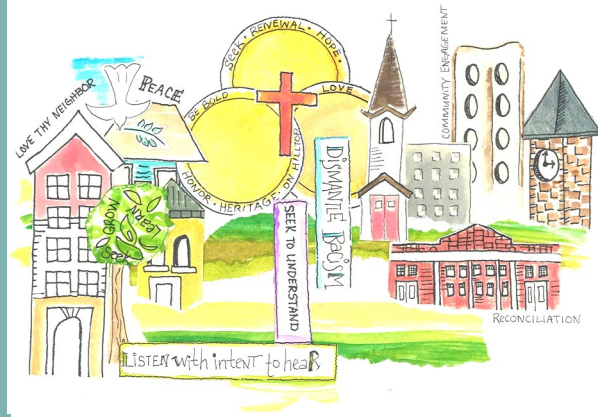
If you would like to receive your newsletters by e-mail only to help us save on postage costs, save trees, and our earth's limited resources please contact the church office at plcadmin@peacetacoma.org or at (253) 383-1317.

Future Directions and Community Engagement

Hello Peace Family,

I just wanted to take a moment to extend a big thank you to each of you for the countless ways you have leaned in to support the future directions work at Peace. I have to admit that I was very nervous stepping into this role because I knew it would be a lot to take on but I also knew that it would bring great joy. In the midst of uncertain times you all have shown up with open hearts and minds to serve. In 5 months we have accomplished so much and it makes me so proud to be a member of this great family. We have come this far by faith, and we will continue to journey together.

I am seeing how Jesus is strengthening us as a congregation and deepening our maturity during this time. When we come through a really difficult time, and I have witnessed people have softer hearts, stronger practices of prayer and worship, and a deeper love for Jesus and one another. I encourage you to join me in praying to that end. I look forward to what is ahead of us.



Housing Ministry

We can't hear the hammers or saws yet, but there is quite a lot of activity going on related to Peace's housing program. For a couple years now the Housing Program Team (Brendan Nelson, Carmean Lampman, Alan Kies, Alan Shelton, Bill Hanawalt, Craig Cogger, Pastor John, and Chris Ferguson) has been looking at possibilities for construction of one or more detached accessory dwelling units (DADUs, also known as backyard cottages) on one of our housing program properties. With Council's support, we have now moved into pre-construction planning with DADU Homes, looking to build a two-bedroom DADU on the alley end of our Cushman house property. In a few weeks we expect to have a building and financial plan that can be presented to the congregation for approval.



Meanwhile, Peace has joined a cadre of six churches in our synod in a Faith Land Stewardship cohort meeting monthly now through the end of the year as we look to the future of our housing ministry. Here is the question for this discernment process: We are in the midst of a profound housing affordability crisis, an ecological crisis, and we are emerging from the biggest health, social and economic crises in a generation. In this pivotal moment, in each of our contexts, what does it mean to steward faith land toward Shalom (love, healing, and justice at every level of life)?

God is leading us as we lean into our calling into our ministry of place in the Hilltop as part of our Future Directions!

The Housing Program Team



Blessings! *Brendan Nelson*, Director of Community Engagement and Outreach

A **Future Directions Implementation Team** is helping our congregation move into the discerned future directions God is leading us. The team is Brendan Nelson, Andie Lyons, Pam Asadi, Sally Perkins, Malcolm Carroll, Craig Cogger, and Pastor John. As we journey forward, if you have questions, please reach out to them.

From the Church Council



Dear People of Peace,

First, let me say how thankful I am that we are back to in-person worship, sharing communion, seeing others that I've not seen for a long time, tho' still masked, and singing, yes singing in the congregation. I have missed that most of all, I think. As you are comfortable, I invite you to come back - we have been scattered for so long and it is good and it is time to gather once again.

You will read about the many things that are happening in and around Peace in this newsletter. Think about your gifts and talents, interests and passions. Consider how and where you are being nudged and called to participate. All are needed, all are gifted by God and have purpose. Hear how God is calling you to serve.

One more request... Our church desperately needs an office coordinator. We know this takes a special person who is often the first face someone sees coming to our facility. This is a position that also is critical to our staff in supporting the work that they do. Pastor John and Brendan have done an admirable job of keeping things rolling by assuming many of the tasks that an office coordinator would do. That takes time and energy from the work they need and want to do. Please, please, please pray earnestly, fervently, that God will send the right person for this position soon. Encourage those you may know to apply if you believe they have that calling and the skills. Pray, also, for Pastor John and Brendan, for strength and energy, and maybe find out how and where you may be able to step in with support.

God bless all of you! *Carol Watson*, Council President



Thanks to all who came out and served on Spring into Action Day!

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**

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.**