



# Herald of Peace

## August 2018

Peace Lutheran Church,  
1301 Ave. D, Billings, MT 59102

(406) 252-5504  
peacelutheranbillings.com

### ***Making Christ Available to All by Rejoicing, Renewing and Reaching Out***

Peace Lutheran Church Mission Statement

#### **Leadership Directory**

Pastor: Rev. Will Sappington  
[prsappington@gmail.com](mailto:prsappington@gmail.com)  
office 252-5504 Home 647-8568  
Office Manager: Dean Jenson  
[peaceoffice@bresnan.net](mailto:peaceoffice@bresnan.net)  
252-5504  
Youth Director: Vanessa Stieger  
[peacelcyouth@gmail.com](mailto:peacelcyouth@gmail.com)  
office 252-5504 cell 698-5576  
Intern Pastor: Ann Bjorklund  
[internpeace@gmail.com](mailto:internpeace@gmail.com)  
252-5504

Treasurer	Steve Frank
Organist	Robin Goodheart
Bells of Peace	Julie Draeger
Altar Guild Treasure	Molly Johnson
WELCA Treasurer	Connie Hausauer

#### **Church Council**

Anderson, Dewey	656-1709
Brown, Mike	855-1588
Christensen, Randy	701-260-5016
Draeger, Dave	698-1333
Finn, Susan	534-1860
Miller, Holli	656-6847
Peterson, Bryan	671-1301
Sider, Melissa	281-7334
Strosky, Linda	661-2626
Strosky, Paul	661-2626

#### **Peace Office Hours**

8am-12pm & 1pm-4pm  
Mon. Tues. Thurs. & Fri.

#### **Worship Schedule**

**Saturdays: 5:00 pm**  
**Sundays: 10:00 am**  
**Education Hour: 11:00 am**  
**Sunday Channel 7 at 9:00 am**



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



### **Good and Pleasant!**

*<sup>1</sup>How very good and pleasant it is  
when kindred live together in unity!  
<sup>2</sup>It is like the precious oil on the head,  
running down upon the beard,  
on the beard of Aaron,  
running down over the collar of his robes.  
<sup>3</sup>It is like the dew of Hermon,  
which falls on the mountains of Zion.  
For there the LORD ordained his blessing,  
life forevermore.- Psalm 133*

For the first time in a few weeks I walked into the place I call home. Sure, my office is in the building at the corner of 13th St West and Ave D, but this is the place I worship with my sisters and brothers. In this place I get to have conversations ranging from the very silly to the deadly serious. I laugh and cry here. I listen to you and I am heard here.



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Dean greeted me with a warm smile as I came back home  
con't pg. 4

## ***Prayer Concerns of those we prayed for June/July 2018***

### **We Believe in Prayer For praise and thanksgiving ...**

Elizabeth A. Eaton - Presiding Bishop, ELCA  
Jessica Christ - Bishop - Montana Synod;

### **For people around the world in need ...**

New Members to come to Peace  
Needs of our neighborhood  
Visitors to Peace Food Pantry  
President Donald Trump (requested by Peace member)  
Christine & Scotty Soileau – Quantico, VA. (member of Peace)

### **For illness or injuries .. of members**

Linda Strosky  
Annette Reich - Aspen View  
Gary Broeder - healing  
Tina Fritz - healing  
Phyllis McGrath - recovery  
John Modde - recovery  
Kathleen Gregg - healing  
Donna Bangert - healing  
Lisa Grimsley - healing  
Ken, Carol Hoefner and family  
Larry & Shirley Heiser –

### **For illness or injuries .. of family and friends.**

Muriel Peterson - broken shoulder  
Warren Peterson - healing  
Gary Fink - healing  
LaWanda Sherseth - healing  
Katilyn - 15 year old with cancer  
Ann Strecker - friend of Rick & Barb Olson - healing  
Joan and Jerrie - Jackie Fayram sisters, memory loss  
Nancy Ware - June Jenson's sister - cancer  
Marissa - college student diagnosed with Leukemia  
Laura Fisher (Jodi Peterson's cousin) cancer  
Carolyn Campbell - diagnosed with breast cancer  
Micah Hilario, son-in-law of Linda & Gary Branae, (Lois Gorseth riends) has been diagnosed with ALS  
Shawn Hanser  
Greg Goodheart  
Bonnie & Kevin - healing and strength  
Pr. Ellen Skatrud-Mickelson - healing  
Emily - prayers for strength

Bob Miller - Rod Miller's father. stroke, surgery and recovery

Tyler Berg - kidney illness

Kari - healing and strength

### **For those grieving...**

Mike Brown - death of friend Arvid Wedul

**Former Pastor Rev. Emil Dockter** died May 26<sup>th</sup> at the age of 96. He served the Peace congregation from 1950 - 1959. God's blessings to this servant of God.

**P** **Prayer Concerns** is a published list of those on the prayer chain, who have given permission to publish their names. If you are interested in praying for these, as well as others, please join the prayer chain. They have leaders who call or email. Please call lone Bloom at 652-2441 or Lisa Grimsley (698-4121).



### ***With sincere gratitude***

**T** **Thank you** very much for the scholarship and the love and support over the years. This church has helped raise me into the person I've become. God Bless and thank you again!  
Sydney Overstreet

**D** **ear Peace,** Thank you for the scholarship money! I plan on using it for textbooks. Your kindness and generosity are very much appreciated! Thank you again for the support. Blessings,  
Mikel Julian

**D** **ear Members and Friends of Peace Lutheran Church** Thank you so very much for your gift of \$1046 to Lutheran World Relief. You join Lutherans from across the nation who work to break the cycle of poverty for people who live overseas. Thank you so much Peace Jon Buuck

## Congregational News

### A Day in the Life of the Intern

As I've been thinking about the transition that's coming up for me, I also know that there are changes ahead for you as well. A Scripture that comes to mind in the midst of this is I Corinthians 12:27-30 (NLT).

*"27 All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it. 28 Here are some of the parts God has appointed for the church: first are apostles, second are prophets, third are teachers, then those who do miracles, those who have the gift of healing, those who can help others, those who have the gift of leadership, those who speak in unknown languages. 29 Are we all apostles? Are we all prophets? Are we all teachers? Do we all have the power to do miracles? 30 Do we all have the gift of healing? Do we all have the ability to speak in unknown languages? Do we all have the ability to interpret unknown languages? Of course not!"*

If Brenda hasn't left by the time you read this, she will be leaving soon. Her departure will leave an unfilled spot in the body of Christ of Peace Lutheran Church. Fortunately, we can take comfort in the fact that Brenda's presence can and will be used in other parts of the Christ's body in the greater Church. My presence will also change the way the body of Christ works in and through Peace Lutheran Church.

As I pursue my call to ministry, I am discerning the gifts God has given me for ministry. I seek to learn from each of you. What does it mean to be effective in preaching? Teaching? Guiding? Accompaniment? Are there more things that God may be calling me to learn and do? Are there more ways that I can contribute to the body of Christ?

Some of you are fulfilling your role in the body through your vocation. Maybe it's teaching, or healthcare. Maybe you're in food service, retail, or a student. Maybe you're a maintenance worker, work with numbers, or take care of others. Maybe you're a business owner or are in construction or demolition.

Maybe your gifts being used outside your vocation, but you're using them in the church or in the community. They may be used in other areas such as teaching, compassion, giving, cooking and baking. Maybe you're artistic, work with the disabled or elderly, or are musically inclined. Maybe your gift is in listening, loyalty, patience, or positivity. Maybe you're the one that loves organizing. Or maybe you're the "idea" person or the "tell me what needs to be done" person. We are all parts of the body. If you're someone that's still trying to figure out where your gifts can and will best be utilized, I trust that will be opportunities to do that.

I expect to have new experiences and learn from them and each of you as we work together as the body of Christ.

Blessings!

Ann

**P**ease Lutheran - Thank you for the use of your church to house our 10 youth and 2 chaperones as traveled to and from the 2018 Youth Gathering in Houston. Your Kindness will not be forgotten.

Peace Lutheran Church ELCA



**H**elp is Needed,  
We are in need of volunteers to help with the Peace Food Pantry. Please contact Bernie Mason or Pastor Will if your able to help.

## Congregational News

con't from pg. 1

and it was so good to see him and catch up. After our conversation I started looking forward to those conversations that happen during with week with the staff and all of our volunteers for the food pantry, offering counting, altar team, mission and service, and so many more that are a part of fulfilling our mission of Rejoicing, Renewing, and Reaching Out. I found myself excited to be back in worship with you. I was happy to be home.

Psalm 133:1 talks about "how very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity." We are the "kindred" which means we are family. We are relatives. The beautiful thing about this family is that we are ever expanding and welcoming new members of the family. Our loving and gracious God tells us it is a beautiful thing when we live together in i b]hm' =ñ 'gc' [ `UX'hc'VY'fYi b]hYX'k ]h\ 'mci "

Thank you for being my church family

Peace,  
Will +

### Potluck! Potluck! Welcome!

Join us as we welcome Intern Pastor Ann Bjorklund on August 18th and 19th. Bring a dish to share and we'll show her what a great community we are!



**Doughnuts and Coffee;** What a great time of fellowship we have after Sunday worship with Coffee and Doughnuts. We are looking for sponsors each week to defray the cost of the Doughnuts. The cost is \$32 per week. If you are interested the sign-up sheet is located in the narthex. Thank you!!



### Rally Day is September 9th!

Join us for worship on September 8th or 9th and on Sunday after worship join us for our Rally Day of Service! We'll have projects for all ages.



### New Member Gatherings Start In August!

Are you interested membership at Peace? Pick one of the following dates for a new member gathering with Will: August 25th at 3pm, August 26th at noon, September 8 at 3pm, or September 9th at 3pm. New members will be welcomed September 15th and 16th during worship!



### Join us on August 15th

starting at 9am at Highland Elementary for a time of serving the elementary teachers in our neighborhood! We're scheduled for 9am – Noon, but come for any amount of time that you can help. The teachers are always so appreciative. Contact Pr. Will for more information.



## Worship News

### August Worship Themes

We're diving into the letters of John this month. Come and hear the words of encouragement and love to this early Christian community. There is much for us in these words too!

**August 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>** Eleventh Weekend after Pentecost "Word of Life!"

**Readings:** Psalm 78:23-29; John 1:29; **1 John 1:5-2:2**

*In the opening salvo of 1 John we hear amazing words of hope. We hear the belief on John's part that God has done and continues to do something brand new. God shares God's love and forgiveness with us!*

**August 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>** Twelfth Weekend after Pentecost "From God"

**Readings:** Psalm 34:1-8; John 14:15-17; **1 John 4:1-6**

*When you are told something that seems unbelievable or too good to be true, what do you do? We teach our children the same thing the author of John tells us to do in matters of faith and life. Test what you've been told. For the life of faith it is a simple test. Is what I've been told in line with God's saving work for the world in Jesus Christ? Does what I've been told spread God's love to all corners everywhere?*

**August 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>** Thirteenth Weekend after Pentecost "God Loves us!"

**Readings:** Psalm 34:9-15; John 15:9-11; **1 John 4:7-21**

*God loves us. Is there anything better to hear? We don't have to earn it. We don't have to pass a test. God loves us. And then God abides in anyone who abides in the love of Christ who is God's Son. Say that over and over. It is Good News.*

**August 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>** Fourteenth Weekend after Pentecost "This is Love"

**Readings:** Psalm 34:15-22; John 18:37-38; **2 John**

*The author of these letters wants one thing to be abundantly clear. God's love is the engine that makes everything move. Without God's love we have nothing. If we are not sharing God's love with every single person we meet we are missing the mark. God's love is truth. This is love.*



Compline Worship  
Service

### Mid-Week Worship Service at Peace!!!

Everyone is invited to attend

Compline (night prayer) service  
The Second Wednesday of the month  
August 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Holden Evening Prayer Service  
The Fourth Wednesday of the month  
August 22 at 7:00

**Holden  
Evening  
Prayer**

**Marty Haugen**

## Mission and Service News

### Upcoming Mission & Service Opportunities to Watch For

It is amazing how fast the summer goes by. School is around the corner, and with that, there are many opportunities to lend your time and talents in August.

Here are the Mission and Service Reaching Out opportunities for August. Please consider praying for where you can personally serve others, and pray for those that will actively participate.

#### August



**All Congregational Day of Service-** Sandwich making has been moved to August 5th in order to celebrate Brenda's time with us this past year the Sunday prior. Please join us after worship to help serve this mission of the Salvation Army.



**Fill Back-to-School Backpacks-** Family Service needs our help to fill back-to-school backpacks. They provide everything, and you fill the backpacks using a simple list. Volunteers are needed August 6, 7, and 8 at their current location on 1st Ave N. Please watch for a signup sheet for specifics.



**Adopt-a-Teacher-** Please reserve August 15th on your calendar for assisting teachers at Highland Elementary from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Many volunteers will be needed as there will be classroom moves involved.

**Any time opportunities-** St. John's Lutheran Ministries is always welcoming volunteers to assist on their West End, Billings Heights and Laurel campuses. Volunteer opportunities include: bingo host, comfort cart attendant, elder khaver, friendly visitor, personal shopper, technology support, shopping companion, social hour host, social media ambassador, volunteer driver, and Wii bowling host.

New Volunteer Orientation is held every Thursday. You can contact Carissa Welch at 655.7727 or at [volunteer@sjlm.org](mailto:volunteer@sjlm.org). Volunteers may also apply online at [www.sjlm.org/volunteer](http://www.sjlm.org/volunteer).

#### Committee Volunteer Opportunities

Please give some personal consideration to exploring serving on one of the many committees that help the congregation of Peace Lutheran Church meet its mission of Rejoicing, Renewing, and Reaching Out. Assistance is always appreciated in helping plan the education and numerous events that take place at Peace all year.

New volunteers are always welcome and needed for the Peace Food Pantry. Many do not realize how much work and dedication goes into providing this valuable service for our neighborhood.

Prayerfully consider where you might be able to lend your time and talents. The more individuals that are able to help make less work for all.

**Your help is needed** in getting information on all College students. The office needs mailing address's for college student.

Please call Dean in the church office or leave information on office desk.



#### We love singing our favorite hymns!

On Sundays this summer we will be asking for the congregation to pick a favorite hymn for the sending song. Once you've had your favorite hymn sung, please allow others to suggest hymns – we want as many as possible to offer their favorites.



# Congregational News



DF"K J"Ń  
Quick Hits

**B**e on the lookout for the "Adopt the Intern" sign up sheet. Please take the opportunity to invite Intern Pr. Ann Bjorklund over or out for a meal.



**T**he Women of Peace quilt that was made for Intern Jessie. The Title of the quilt is "Stories of the Bible"

The women who contributed to the making of the quilt are:

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Ione Bloom        | June Jenson     |
| Joy Lindber       | Bernie Mason    |
| Mary Mosdahl      | Cinda Robbins   |
| Kay Rossow        | Sharon Schatzke |
| Sandy Schillinger | Elaine Schong   |
| Nancy Taylor      |                 |

## FOOD DONATION WEEKEND August 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>

We will be collecting for the  
**Peace Food Pantry,**

This month there is especially a need for single-serving canned fruit, canned meals with pull top lids, soup, cereal and granola bars.



### Peace Quilters

It has been a busy summer even though we haven't had quilting sessions, there has been lots of newly arrived donations to the quilting room. We do appreciate the fabric and yarn, as it will keep us busy for the coming year. We will be meeting 3 times a month next year, the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Wednesday mornings in the fellowship hall at 9:00

AM. All people interested in learning to make mission quilts are welcome to join us.

# Congregational News

## Church E-mail Addresses



### Pastor Will

[prsappington@gmail.com](mailto:prsappington@gmail.com)

### Church Office

[peaceoffice@bresnan.net](mailto:peaceoffice@bresnan.net)

### Intern Pastor

[internpeace@gmail.com](mailto:internpeace@gmail.com)

### Youth Director

[peacelcyouth@gmail.com](mailto:peacelcyouth@gmail.com)

## Check out the web site:

[peacelutheranbillings.com](http://peacelutheranbillings.com). Web site is updated with, up to date calendar, newsletter in color, Youth page, and photo page.



## Church Council Minutes

The approved church council minutes are available at the bulletin board outside the church office. Thank you

Find us on facebook:  
Peace Lutheran Church, Billings MT

**Simply Giving Program** - Would you find it helpful to have your offerings taken from your bank account as you do other monthly drafts? Thrivent Financial for Lutherans sponsors a program called Simply Giving which offers this service for people who wish to have offerings transferred electronically to Peace Lutheran Church account. For those who travel, this is particularly helpful in keeping up with their intended offerings, and it will keep you from having to make up the difference later. Contact the church office for more details.



## Bible Studies

The Regular schedule for Women's Circles returns:

**Ruth** Circle meets on the second Tuesday at 11:30 am at Hardees on 24th

**Martha** Circle meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall

**Deborah/Katie** Circle Join us in September

## Congregational Life Committee

The Congregational Life Committee is responsible to touch the lives of the people of Peace Lutheran Church by involving them in the life and ministry of the church. One of the most visible responsibilities is fellowship following worship services. We moved from asking service committee members to bring cookies, etc., to providing doughnuts from the IGA. So, the duties have been reduced and only one or two people are needed for each Sunday. We will continue to assign monthly service committees as we have done in the past. If we have a potluck or other congregational function during the month, the committee may be asked to help. A committee chairperson will be assigned each month and will ask committee members to help with the fellowship/coffee following Sunday worship.

## August Serving group

Deb Sider, chair  
Chuck Sider  
Rita/Wayne Wayman  
Linda/Eddie Popp  
Mary Ann/Ron Conboy  
June/Dean Jensen  
Jodi Pierce  
Tina Fritz  
Kayla Bettise  
Marlene/Khyl Thomson



# Congregational News

### 2018 Circles & Bible Studies:

Everyone is welcome!

#### **Martha Circle**

Meets Third Wednesday, at 10:00 am  
in the Fellowship hall

#### **Deborah-Katie Circle**

Join us in September

#### **Ruth Circle**

Meets second Tuesday at 11:30 am  
at Hardees on 24th

### Peace Lutheran Church Council

President - Holli Miller

Vice President - Melissa Sider

Secretary - Linda Strosky

Dewey Anderson - Abundant Life, Property

Mike Brown - Abundant Life, Property

Randy Christensen - Abundant Life

Dave Draeger - Worship

Susan Finn - Congregational Life

Holli Miller - Congregational Life, Executive

Bryan Peterson- Mission & Service

Melissa Sider - Youth/Education, Executive

Linda Strosky- Mission & Service, Executive

Paul Strosky - Youth/Education

### Men's Breakfast and Bible Study

Meets every

Wednesday at 6:30 am in the  
Fellowship Hall. New-comers

and one-timers are  
always welcome



### Boards/Committees

#### St John's Ministries

Rich Robbins

Rhonda Sappington

#### Christikon

Jerilyn Dukart

Vanessa Steiger

Kaia Sappington

#### Lutheran Center

Debbie Sider

Kay Rossow

#### Shepherd Cluster

Bonnie Hovik Calusen

John Goodheart

#### Endowment Trustee

Gary Broeder Ed Popp

Molly Johnson Bernie Mason

Rhonda Hanson

#### Nominating Committee

### Questions about Council Activities? If

you have any questions or comments  
regarding any council action - pending or  
complete - please contact

President Holli Miller

Vice-President Melissa Sider

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN  
YOUR ARTICLES  
EARLY!**

RE M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR  
NEWSLETTER  
ARTICLES IS**

**August 16th**

Catch  
Worship  
Service  
Broad-  
cast on  
Community  
Channel 7  
Sunday Mornings  
at 9:00 am



# Education and Youth News



A note from Vanessa:

Hey friends! Are you ready for another school year? I have had an awesome summer hanging out with all of you! We have some exciting things coming up at Peace like the Halloween Carnival, Game Nights, and more! This upcoming year, I'd like to meet with one Youth family per month to have dinner and spend time getting to know each other better. How does that sound to you?

This summer, we got to do some pretty cool stuff. A highlight of my summer was Vacation Bible School. The kids and the congregation raised \$894 for ELCA Good Gifts. How cool is that?

Thank you for the support, and I can't wait for another year!

On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, join us for a Back to School Game Night! Starting at 5:30, we will be playing a host of different games for all ages. So, bring a game, bring a friend, and bring an appetite because we will be having Walking Tacos!

All are welcome to come hang out with us! We have awesome games to play including KLASK! the fan favorite.

See you then!

## Blessing of the Backpacks

August 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM

During Worship on August 19<sup>th</sup>, we will "Bless the Backpacks" for the upcoming school year. Elementary, Middle School, High School, College, Teachers, etc.- bring your backpacks! Everyone is welcome. Vanessa will be getting her backpack blessed, too!



## August ReFuel Menu

August 1<sup>st</sup>- Hot Dogs

August 8<sup>th</sup>- Spaghetti

August 15<sup>th</sup>- Pizza

August 22<sup>nd</sup>- Walking Tacos  
(Back to School Game Night)

August 29<sup>th</sup>- Breakfast for Dinner

\*Worship Nights are in Bold

## Mission Trip Planning

As we are gearing up for another Mission Trip year, we are setting a date to plan and get details underway. If you are interested in attending our Summer of 2019 mission trip, please let Vanessa know and mark your calendar to meet with us on September 12<sup>th</sup>, after mid-week worship.

## Community News

### Words from the Bishop:

#### We Are Home

This week our staff had a visit from the Church Council of New Hope. New Hope was our home for almost 2 years, between when we sold our old building and when we moved into our new Synod House. The Church Council wanted to see us in our new location, and wish us well. When we moved into New Hope, we were greeted with flowers and zucchini bread. As part of their visit, the Council again brought us flowers and zucchini bread.

We are grateful to New Hope for the months we spent sharing their space. We got to learn more about their ministry—Family Promise, Wednesday night intergenerational learning, hosting the Quakers on Sunday morning. And the got to learn more about the ministry of the wider church, just by being near us, watching what we do, where we travel.

We are grateful to the many people who have made the Synod House possible—to the Mission Builders, especially Sue and Allan Ost; to the volunteers; to the people who worked at raising money; to the individuals and congregations who donated and continue to donate money. It is a group effort, and the Synod House belongs to all.

At the Synod Assembly we travelled to the Synod House and had a dedication and open house. If you were not able to join us then, come visit when you are in Great Falls. We are a block from the hospital,



Montana Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



very easy to find. We were also able to dedicate a tree during the ceremony, as a companion to a tree planted on behalf of the Montana Synod at the Luthergarten in Wittenberg, Germany.

Of course there are blips and adjustments. But they are part of anything new. And we are doing our best to meet the future boldly.

Come and see us. The Synod House is a welcoming place. We've already had one meeting of 4 congregations in our conference room. In another couple of weeks the Candidacy Committee will meet there, and we'll be able to connect electronically with others.

Thanks be to God!

Jessica Crist, Bishop

## Christikon Clips

As you are reading this clip, we are readying for our last sessions of the season. We have hosted over 450 campers this season including Developmentally disabled adults, youth, families, and adults. We would welcome scholarship gifts as you are able for a wonderful group of new campers!

Our summer staff will be completing their stay with us and will soon be heading back to their lives outside of Christikon.

We look forward to our congregational retreats scheduled this fall and there are still retreat times available to visit Christikon! Call Kerry in the office and reserve a time.

Our Capital Campaign is in full swing now. If you have not received a campaign packet please call the office. The first project is restoring the 100 year old Blackfoot Lodge. Very exciting

Blessings to all of you who support Christikon with prayer, time, skills, and financially. We are grateful.

*It is the mission of Christikon to awaken and nurture faith in Christ —  
exploring God's creation and the adventure of life together.*





## August 2018

**1** Remember in prayer the newly elected synod bishops, and pray they be strengthened and inspired by the Holy Spirit for serving and encouraging leaders and members of their synod's congregations and ministries.

**2** Pray for unity among all Christians and that, as followers of Christ, we pursue and celebrate a unity that bridges differences and affirms we are of one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism and one God.

**3** Sing and shout praise to God for the fullness and wonder of creation and nature, gifts that renew our spirit, inspire creativity, sustain life and reveal God's power and love; pray we value and tend carefully these gifts entrusted to us for the sake of the world, all life and glorifying our Creator.

**4** Give thanks for the ELCA missionaries accompanying our global companions in Germany and Russia to help build the capacity of Lutheran churches for evangelism, mission and leadership development.

**5** In the spirit of Jesus' feeding 5,000,000 people, pray for generous responses to ELCA World Hunger's Global Farm Challenge, a year-long, youth-driven fundraising challenge to support the agriculture-related programs of ELCA World Hunger, our church's ministry to end hunger and poverty.

**6** It takes the skills, dedication and work of many to run our schools – people who teach, cook, attend to special needs, drive buses, clean, counsel students, coach and more. Pray for everyone who has a role in the education, development and well-being of children and youth in our schools.

**7** The Lutheran Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations Network (LEIRN) is made up of volunteers representing the 65 synods of the ELCA. Pray for the work of LEIRN's representatives as models and advocates for ecumenical and inter-religious engagement in the life of the synod and this church.

**8** Remember in prayer all those who suffer daily from chronic pain and its physical, mental and spiritual effects; pray they find hope, effective treatments without addiction and relief from their pain.

**9** Continue praying for all who are recovering from natural disasters, severe weather, flooding and wildfires; ask God to stir an enduring hope, resilience and spirit of mutual care in people as they face the lengthy, difficult and emotional work of grieving loss and rebuilding lives and communities.

**10** Ask God to bless and further the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association (ELEA) in supporting, equipping and advocating for our 1,400 schools and early childhood centers and their 18,000 educators and employees serving and sharing the gospel with over 150,000 children and their families.

**11** Just as God has fed, nourished and sustained us in body and spirit, pray we too are generous with our resources, abundance and witness for the sake of our neighbors who are hungry or food insecure, and for the sake of those who long for the hope and good news we know in Jesus Christ.

**12** Jesus' refusal to turn away hungry crowds reminds us that gospel-centered, faith-driven compassion and responses are not easily dissuaded by daunting problems or large-scale situations that might otherwise discourage our engagement. Pray for the Spirit to stir in us empathy, determination and an awareness of the assets around us that we can put to use in serving our neighbor.

**13** Florence Nightingale (1910) and Clara Maass (1901) Pray for all who work for the care, healing and comfort of those who are sick, injured or in the last stages of life, especially physician assistants, nurses, physicians, hospice staff, health educators, medics in the military, emergency responders and home-care providers.

**14** Pray for humility and courage to be imitators of God and put aside anger, bitterness, slander, dishonesty and cruelty, and be – as urged in Ephesians – kind, tenderhearted and forgiving of one another as God in Christ has been for us.

**15** Give thanks for the ways Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA is impacting, strengthening and growing ministries of the church here and around the world. In this last year of the campaign, pray that the Spirit will continue to spark generosity, involvement and a clear sense of the amazing things we can accomplish together.



## August 2018

**16** Remember in prayer students of every age who are returning to school, that their hearts and minds are open to learning, study and change.

**17** Bless, praise and give thanks to God, for God is good and hears our every prayer, cry, joyful laugh and sigh.

**18** Pray our schools are safe, encouraging environments free from violence that children and youth can learn, mature, socialize and develop skills for life without fear, anxiety or worry.

**19** Give thanks for the gifts of God's grace, love and restored hope we experience in Holy Communion, and for the promise that Jesus Christ is present in the word, bread and wine through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**20** Ask God to help us be aware and affirming of the vital gifts and assets of elders in our congregations and communities; pray we have the wisdom to call on their spiritual gifts, faith, interests, life experiences and insights for the mission of the church and serving our neighbor.

**21** The ELCA and The Episcopal Church are committed to prayer, fasting and advocacy addressing cuts to public programs that are vital to hungry people who are living in poverty. Remember to pray for these concerns, our leaders and people in need on the 21st of each month through December 2018.

**22** Pray for help in discerning, living and walking in God's ways and wisdom, especially when we feel uneasy or uncertain of God's ways in the midst of popular culture, social norms, diverse values, current politics, peer pressure or other powerful influences in our daily life.

**23** Ask for the Spirit of God to be present and active in planning groups, staff and volunteers preparing for the beginning of fall congregational programs; pray these programs and ministries reach new people, deepen the faith of members, inspire people of all ages to serve neighbors in need and help grow the church.

**24** Give thanks to God for the work of the Spirit in our lives and the church as we seek to do good in the world, pursue peace and love our neighbor.

**25** Pray for young adults finishing a summer of service in outdoor ministries, that they will continue to be committed to learning, witness and service in their communities, schools, church and the world as leaders equipped with faith, skills, creativity and insights gained through outdoor ministry experiences with people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

**26** Give praise and thanks to God for the gift of Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Man, in whom we have new life, salvation and hope.

**27** Remember in prayer people and situations – nearby and globally – that have slipped from our memory, prayers, daily conversations or media coverage; pray these people and concerns in the world live in us and are not easily forgotten.

**28** Faithful, generous volunteers are critical for doing God's work in the world. Give thanks for volunteers who lead and staff programs and ministries in our congregations; pray they are inspired and sustained by their faith, find training and support for their work, and are moved by the Spirit to share their faith and the good news of Jesus Christ with others.

**29** Pray to be "strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power" when confronted by difficulties, threats or the darkness of evil, and that we are always ready to proclaim the gospel of peace and pray for the needs and concerns of others.

**30** Give thanks for the rich partnership and relationship we have with the United Methodist Church, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 2009. Pray for their church and ask God to further our respect for one another and work together sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.

**31** Give thanks for our long, rich tradition and commitment to faith-based education in homes, congregations, day care and early learning centers, schools, colleges and universities, seminaries, lay schools of theology and through online learning; pray for writers who prepare curriculum, educators, faculty, staff, volunteers and administrators who have responded to the call to serve children, youth and adults of all ages, abilities and needs.

# Peace Lutheran Church

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**God's Work.  
Our hands.**

**August 2018**

