



Herald of Peace

February 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
office 252-5504 Home 647-8568
Office Manager: Dean Jenson
peaceoffice@bresnan.net
252-5504
Youth Director: Vanessa Stieger
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office 252-5504 cell 698-5576
Intern Pastor: Brenda Boogren
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
McGough, Amy 861-3449
Miller, Holli 656-6847
Peterson, Bryan 671-1301
Sider, Melissa 281-7334
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.



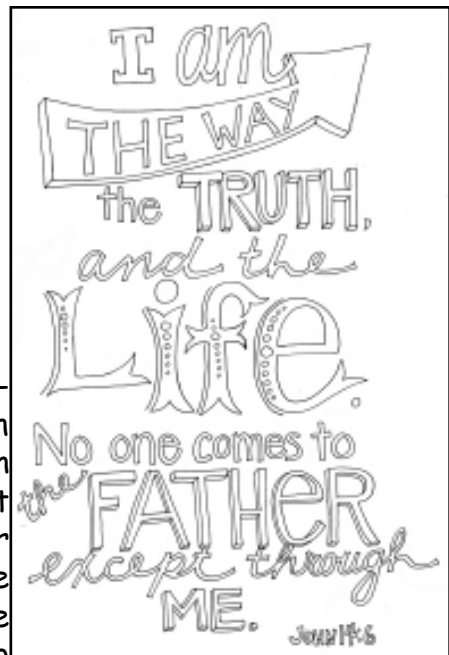
"Jesus says, "I Am. . ."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.
John 14:5-7

I've been thinking quite a bit about the kingdom of God. It's been on my mind because I need some hope today. I need to hear a word of promise in a world that seems not only divided, but disconnected too. Where can we go to see love in action? Where is grace?"

The season of Lent starts early this year. On February 13th we'll gather for Fat Tuesday in the fellowship hall and the next night we'll worship at 7pm for Ash Wednesday. It seems like we just had Christmas with the candles and carols. It seems so fast.

Each Wednesday this Lent we'll be looking at a different "I Am" statement from the Gospel of John. You've got my favorite in the passage above, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Jesus tells us that we only need look to him for the



Prayer Concerns of those we prayed for January 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

Phyllis McGrath - recovery
Linda Strosky - recovery
Leigh Aslakson - Valley Health Care
John Modde - recovery
Kathleen Gregg - healing
Donna Bangert - healing
Lisa Grimsley - healing
Art Reinhardt - healing
Ken, Carol Hoefner and family
Larry & Shirley Heiser –

For illness or injuries .. of family and friends.

Nancy Ware - June Jenson's sister - cancer
Marissa - college student diagnosed with Leukemia

Living Lutheran Magazine Please check the sign up in the narthex to renew your "Living Lutheran" subscription. New subscribers add your name, address and zip code to the list. The price is \$8.95 for the year. Make checks payable to Peace and either drop in the offering plate or in the office. Please note that it is for your subscription. Thanks



Keenan Weatherford (for healing)
Laura Fisher (Jodi Peterson's cousin) cancer
Carolyn Campbell - diagnosed with breast cancer
Micah Hilario, son-in-law of Linda & Gary
Branæ, (Lois Gorseth friends) 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
Arvid Wedul - friend of Mike Brown - diagnosed with ALS
Bud Leuthold - friend of Joy Lindberg leukemia
For those grieving...
Barb & Rick Olson on the death of Barb's brother Jeffery Jan. 3

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 (656-8113).

*I am
the Bread
of Life
John 6:35*



Congregational News

A Day in the Life of the Intern

Hello Friends of Peace,

I am back from my trip to Minnesota and ready to get back into the saddle! It was nice to see family and friends, but it is also nice to be back with all of you. As I said last month, you have all been so good to me and it has been such a joy getting to be with you these past several months.

This month I have been thinking a lot about the Samaritan woman who met Jesus at the well in John I have been thinking about how Jesus told her all about herself and how she left her whole reason for being at the well behind. She ran off without her water jar. How much more did she really leave behind? Yes, she left her old self behind, went back to town and shared her encounter with Jesus with everyone. One of my favorite parts of this story is that she does not try to force her newness on anyone else, but instead invites them to "Come and see." Come and experience Jesus for yourself. Come and meet the one who told me all about myself. "Come and see."

That is how I see and envision our lives as followers of Christ. I want my life, the way that I live my life, to say "Come and see." I see that invitation here at Peace almost every weekend. I see how you respond when someone new walks in the door and how you welcome and invite all at the same time.

At the devotions before council in January, Pastor Will asked us how we envisioned charity and love being played out in the life of Peace this year. There are so many ways I can see this question being answered, but my hope is that we will continue to invite all those we meet to "Come and see" through the ways in which we live out our mission. I believe that there is something incredibly special here at Peace and I believe that you feel it too. I also believe that it is all of you! We are not waiting to see and experience the Kingdom of Heaven, but living into it here and now.

Friends in Christ,

Brenda

Intern Pastor Brenda

SOUP SUPPERS ARE COMING

Do you have a favorite soup recipe or want to try out a new recipe?

Lenten soup suppers are coming beginning February 14 with Ash Wednesday. Look for the purple binder on the table in the narthex to either bring soup for 30, simple dessert, rolls, or clean up. Many hands make light work. Soup will be served at 6:00 with worship to follow at 7:00.



Come fellowship with us and share your food.

Cookies for College Students

We will be packaging treat boxes for our college students to be delivered around Valentine's Day. If you would like to contribute goodies, please leave 2 dozen individually wrapped goodies in the kitchen by Sunday, February 11. Your contribution of love to our college students is greatly appreciated. If you have questions, please contact



Congregational News

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direction to the Father. Jesus also says, "I am the bread of life, the light of the world, the door of the sheep, the good shepherd, the resurrection and the life, and the true vine." What else could we possibly need?

Much like Advent the season of Lent is a time of preparation. In Advent we prepare for celebrating the birth of Christ and we look toward Christ's return. In Lent we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of Christ and we tune our hearts to living as freed and forgiven children of God.

Too often we try to take the mantle of "I Am" for ourselves. Like toddlers we claim to be able to do everything by ourselves for ourselves. I can still hear the little chirpy voices of my own toddler children yelling, "No, I do it." There is only one "I Am." Thankfully none of us are it.

How will you be preparing this Lent? What prayer, devotion, or service practices will you add to your days and weeks? How will you reflect on the life of Christ and what that means for you and your neighbor?

Lent may be earlier than usually this year, but the message we need to hear is right on time.

Peace,
Will +

Lenten Worship Schedule

The season of Lent begins with our Ash Wednesday service on February 14th this year. This service reminds us of our human frailty with the imposition of ashes with the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

During the season of Lent we will gather each Wednesday evening for soup supper at 6:00 pm. Worship will begin at 7:00 pm.



- Feb. 14th** Ash Wednesday service John 8:1-11
Soup Host: Congregational Life Committee
 Offering - Lutheran World Relief
- Feb. 21st** *"I am the bread of life"* - John 6:22-40 **Soup Host:** Various Circles
 Offering - Friendship House
- Feb. 28th** *"I am the light of the world"* - John 8:12-20 **Soup Host:** Church Council
 Offering - Christikon
- Mar. 7th** *"I am the gate"* - John 10:1-10 **Soup Host:** Youth/Education
 Offering - Amani for Africa
- Mar. 14th** *"I am the good shepherd"* - John 10:11-21 **Soup Host:** Mission and Service
 Offering - Prison Ministry
- Mar. 21st** *"I am the vine"* - John 15:1-17 **Soup Host:** Men's Breakfast
 Offering - Billings Public Schools Homeless Education

Worship News

February Worship Themes

We move into Lent this month. Join us for Ash Wednesday worship. Join us for Wednesday soup suppers. Join us on the journey.

(Sermon focus texts are in **bold**.)

February 3rd & 4th Fifth Weekend after Epiphany

#wordofwellspring

Readings: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; **John 4:1-42**

When you've heard or seen something amazing what do you do first? I tell others. I have to share. Others need time to ponder what just happened before they can tell the story. A woman encounters Jesus and she's forever changed. Come and listen.

February 10th & 11th Transfiguration of our Lord

#wordofwashing

Readings: Psalm 50:1-6; **John 9:1-41**

Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus heals the man born blind and eventually the man is put out of the synagogue. Jesus hears that they had driven him out and finds him. The Pharisees over hear their conversation and a lesson in Spiritual blindness occurs.

February 17th & 18th First Weekend in Lent

"Lazarus"

Readings: Psalm 15:1-10; **John 11:1-44**

In this sign we see Jesus overcome with grief for a dear friend before life is restored. Where do you see yourself in this story? Are you with the disciples? With Mary and Martha? With the crowd? Where are you when you hear Jesus say, "Lazarus, come out!"

February 24th & 25th Second Weekend in Lent

"Servant"

Readings: Psalm 22:23-31; **John 13:1-17**

Jesus drops to his knees with water and a towel and humbles himself before his disciples. Another lesson in how we treat others and in what our role is as a follower of Christ. Yes, we are to be a servant. "For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you." John 13:15



February 14th

Soup supper 6:00 pm

Worship 7:00 pm

Join us for midweek
Lenten services starting
February 14th at 7pm. Each
Wednesday this Lent we'll be
looking at a different "I Am"
statement from the Gospel. of
John.

I am the
GOOD
SHEPHERD.
The good shepherd
LAYS DOWN
his **LIFE**
FOR THE SHEEP


Mission and Service News

Upcoming Mission & Service Opportunities to Watch For

The Mission and Service committee continues to offer many opportunities to serve others in this New Year. Please consider praying for where you can personally be doing God's work with your hands and talents.

Here are the upcoming Mission and Service opportunities.



Souper Bowl of Caring- Our annual time of giving will take place on February 4th. Come support your football favorite for the big game while supporting a great cause.



All Congregation Day of Service- Join us Wednesday, February 21st in conjunction with our Lenten soup supper for our next day of service.



Habitat for Humanity Apostle Build- Watch for a home dedication date towards the end of February.



Lenten Offerings- Ash Wednesday is February 14. Our Lenten offerings will be supporting Lutheran World Relief, Friendship House, Christikon, Amani for Africa, Prison Ministry, and Billings Public Schools Homeless Education.



ALL CHURCH DAY
OF SERVICE



We are always looking for volunteer hosts for the Food Pantry. Please reach out to Bernie Mason if you are interested in more information. Thank you for participating in any areas that you are able as we continue to reach out in service as God's people.



Peace Quilters

The Peace Quilters are off to a good start for this year, even though the cold and snow kept most of us home in January.

We appreciate all the donations of fabric and money we received last month. We especially thank Bernie Hedrick for his generosity. It

will keep us busy this winter and spring.

All are welcome to join us on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings to make mission quilts. We need people to tie the quilts, to sew around the edges, to lay out squares for tops, as well as cut squares from our supply of material. Cinda would welcome help in organizing the quilting room,

Coffee and cookies are ready about 10:30.

Congregational News

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 \$28 per week. If you are interested the sign-up sheet is located in the narthex. Thank you!!



Do you want to dig deeper into the word? Join us Feb. 7th & 21st at 7pm as we continue our study of the Gospel of John. Women and men, young and old

are welcome! This Bible study will be meeting on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7pm.

FOOD DONATION WEEKEND January 3rd & 4th

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.



Christikon Clips February 2018



Christikon Youth Camp Brochures have been mailed to every young person in your congregation who are in grades 4-12. The brochures detail some very special possibilities, and some very special deals for registering early for camp. Save by registering before March 15. Additional brochures are available from your church office.

Family Adult Brochures will be out soon. Watch for yours in the mail or at your church.

Do it online! You can use the Internet to register for all camp sessions at Christikon, or to make a gift, or to find out more about this special ministry. Go to www.christikon.org.

Save the date: Christikon Benefit Auction at the Billings Depot is scheduled for April 29.

Too few young people (not to mention adults) have significant outdoor experience. Christikon combines spirited outdoor experience with focused community experience, helping to open people to the deeper realities of the life of faith. Think about joining the Christikon life this coming summer. It can do a world of good...

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

Fat Tuesday is February 13th! Join us from 5:30-7pm for pancakes, great fun, and great music. Invite your friends to this Peace tradition. There is no cost, but a free will offering will be received.



I am
the Light
of the World

John 8:12



Congregational News

Church E-mail Addresses



Pastor Will

prsappington@gmail.com

Church Office

peaceoffice@bresnan.net

Intern Pastor

internpeace@gmail.com

Youth Director

peacelcyouth@gmail.com



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 meets on the second Saturday of the month at 10:30 am in the fellowship hall

Check out the web site:

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.



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. Last year, 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.

February Serving group

Holli Miller, chair
Rod Miller
Julie/Dave Draeger
Kellie/James Kintzing
Kathleen Gregg
Alecia/Marlon Besel
Casey Miller
Lisa and Kevin Donovan
Sandie/Tom Schillinger

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

Meets 2nd Saturday at 10:30 am
at Peace

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 - Susan Finn

Dewey Anderson - Abundant Life

Mike Brown - Abundant Life, Property

Randy Christensen - Abundant Life

Dave Draeger - Worship

Susan Finn - Mission & Service, Executive

Amy McGough - Youth/Education

Holli Miller - Congregational Life, Executive

Bryan Peterson- Mission & Service

Melissa Sider - Youth/Education

Paul Strosky - Mission & Service

Boards/Committees

St John's Ministries

Leah Bick

Rich Robbins

Christikon

Erl Barsness

Jerilyn Dukart

Vanessa Steiger

Lutheran Center

Debbie Sider

Kay Rossow

Shepherd Cluster

John Goodheart

Jody Pierce

Endowment Trustee

Bob Gilbertson

Jeff Murray

Gary Broeder

Ed Popp

Molly Johnson

Nominating Committee Julie Draeger



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

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**

February 15th

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



Church Council Minutes

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

Thank you

Education and Youth News

Fat Tuesday

Join us on February 14th from 5:30 to 7:00 PM! There will be great food, music, fun, and people!

This is a Free Will Donation event that goes to the Youth Account. The proceeds will be split between the Scholarship and General Funds.



† February 7^u

Fat Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday. It is also known as Mardi Gras Day or Shove Day. It is a day when people eat all they want of anything and everything as the following day is the beginning of a long fasting period for Christians.



February ReFuel Meals

February 7th- Sloppy Joes (Sharon Schatzke)

February 14th- Soup Supper (Ash Wednesday)

February 21st- Soup Supper

February 28th- Soup Supper

Soup Suppers will run from February 14th through Easter.

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Last year we had the first "Sweetheart Dinner" which was a Youth Fundraiser where the youth kids served you! We changed the name to the fundraiser because everyone is welcome, so please come as you are. We will be selling tickets for \$8 which provides you dinner. There will be a silent auction with an assortment of baskets and items! All the proceeds go to the General Youth Fund which is what the youth uses for various youth group activities, meals, and supplies. We also use this account for Mission Trip and Scholarship money. Last year, the fundraiser was a lot of fun! If you did not get the chance to come last year, I hope you can make it this time.

@

We are seeking donations for the Silent Auction, Desserts for the Dessert Auction, and volunteers to help on the night of the 9th.

Vacation Bible School will take place the week of June 4th-8th. Details to follow!

Community News

Words from the Bishop:

All eyes on...South Dakota

Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Buddhist faith leaders in South Dakota will gather at the capital to pray and present the governor and legislators with a statement advocating safety and respect for all faith communities. They ask for our prayers for this Interfaith Day, as they stand together against prejudice and hate. Bishop Dave Zeller of the South Dakota Synod is a leader in this movement, and has asked other ELCA synods to join them in prayer.

In Wyoming, the Wyoming Association of Churches has transitioned into the Wyoming Interfaith Network, with focus on justice, civil discourse and understanding, as well as advocacy in the Legislature. In Montana, the Montana Association of Christians (MAC, formerly the Montana Association of Churches) does similar work.

Below please find the statement from our neighbors in South Dakota, and pray for peace and harmony:

We as leaders in the faith community stand together with our neighbors of all faiths and ethnic backgrounds in South Dakota.

Each of our religious traditions teaches that human beings have the opportunity and the obligation to build communities in which peace and mutual respect are core expressions of an ethical life. Our religions teach us that we must stand up for the rights and freedoms of all members of the communities in which we live, including people of faith backgrounds different from our own. This vision of just treatment for all human beings is born of our religious faith. We believe that this is entirely consistent with our shared American value that religious freedom is guaranteed to people of all faiths and of no faith. In sharp contrast to this vision, we have recently witnessed a rise in hateful activity that degrades other religions and denies the religious freedom of many, especially Muslims and Jews. There has been an increase in hate speech, crimes



Montana Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

and bullying directed against Muslims and Jews; growing opposition to the building or expansion of mosques; and a troubling wave of state legislative initiatives across America and in South Dakota aimed at discriminating against Muslims and others. We are people of different faiths across South Dakota who, in keeping with this state's traditions and values, are committed to ending anti-Muslim and anti-Semitic sentiment in our state and our country. Together we stand shoulder to shoulder with our brothers and sisters of all faiths and ethnic backgrounds in South Dakota and across this great nation. We invite all people of conscience to join us in these actions:

- REFLECT on what will heal divisions in our communities;
- PARTNER across faith lines to know one another better and address issues of common concern, such as affirming and promoting religious freedom.
- TELL the positive stories of these multi-faith partnerships publicly in order to report this reality to the media and shape public dialogue; and,
- DENOUNCE hatred, bigotry, violence and the use of misinformation against all people wherever we see it in word or in action.

Only by taking a stand together can we fulfill the highest callings of our respective faiths and help build a South Dakota and an America that is safer and stronger because of our religious and ethnic diversity.

May it be so!
Jessica Crist, Bishop

I am the True Vine



John 15:1



February 2018

1 Give thanks, especially during Black History Month, for our sisters and brothers of African descent participating in God's work of restoring and reconciling communities in the name of Jesus Christ throughout the world; ask God to bless the work of the African Descent Lutheran Association in developing networks, advocating for congregations, and providing fellowship, learning and sharing opportunities for lay members and rostered ministers of the ELCA.

2 This is the time of year when ELCA outdoor ministry leaders are recruiting young adults for a summer of service at our 128 outdoor ministry sites. Pray young adults across the country are moved by the Spirit to serve in this vibrant, diverse ministry and are inspired to share their faith, leadership, skills and enthusiasm with the 175,000 campers of all ages participating in summer programs.

3 Pray for the young adults applying for the 2018-19 ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program, a year of service, faith formation, walking alongside global companions and relationship building in 11 programs in 14 countries around the world.

4 The world cries out for healing, peace, freedom from oppression and hope. Praise God for the new life, renewal of spirit and relief we have through Jesus Christ, and pray we are humble servants and bold disciples eager to share this good news with everyone.

5 We remember in our prayers ELCA missionaries serving in Japan alongside our global church partners that they are sustained by their faith and our encouragement and support for their work of teaching, music, theological education, parish ministry and sharing the gospel.

6 We remember, and strive to not forget, in our prayers the many situations, people and places in our nation and the world where suffering, conflict, poverty and hunger, long-term recovery from disasters and injustice persist.

7 Pray that, for the sake of the gospel, we are faithful in serving our neighbor, spreading the good news and sharing our blessings with all people in

every context and situation of life without expectation of reward, praise or recognition.

8 As seasonal jobs and employment wane, we remember in our prayers those in our communities who are unemployed and underemployed, and we pray we are supportive in ways that recognize and value their gifts, help network and connect people, attend to daily needs and respect the dignity of individuals.

9 Pray the spirit of God at work in us will motivate us to say "yes" daily to the covenant made in baptism to live among God's faithful people, hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper, proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, serve all people following the example of Jesus, and strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

10 "Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God" (Psalm 147:1). Give thanks to God for caring for those who live in sadness, suffer injustice, feel powerless or are treated as outcasts; ask God to remind us of our call to be God's caring hands, voice and presence in the world.

11 *Transfiguration of Our Lord* When confused about God's purpose for us and the future of the church, we pray God will stir our faith and enlighten our vision, reminding us to not seek refuge in what is familiar and safe but instead venture into our communities, uncomfortable situations and the world to share the good news and serve our neighbor.

12 Pray for the ELCA Youth Gathering staff, volunteers, youth and adult participants, congregations and synods preparing for the Youth Gathering, Multicultural Youth Leadership Event and The tAble pre-event for "definitely-abled" youth in Houston this summer.

13 Pray that our work, service and ministries are not for our own satisfaction, recognition or legacy but for the proclaiming of the good news of Jesus Christ and the benefit of our neighbor.

14 *Ash Wednesday* We pray with humility and repentance as we begin our journey through Lent that, even in our imperfection and weakness, we never lose sight of the good news that God's love and mercy are unwavering and that our lives are made new and whole through our baptism into Christ's life, death and resurrection.



February 2018

15 Give thanks for those who have been called to vocations of writing and editing books for children, youth and adults, theological publications, worship resources, curricula for faith formation, devotional and prayer guides, and resources for congregational leaders.

16 God shines brightly in the world and universe and is not silent. Give thanks and praise to God, and ask that our witness be bold and bright in declaring God's boundless power, righteousness and love.

17 As our Lenten journey continues, we reflect on our lives and faith with humility and honesty, immersing ourselves in prayers for God's mercy and rejoicing in the gifts of love, forgiveness and salvation we have through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

18 Give thanks to God that the Spirit that sustained and protected Jesus in the wilderness against Satan and temptation is the same Spirit with us today, strengthening our faith and courage in the face of difficulties, guiding our daily lives, and inspiring us to act boldly with justice, compassion, mercy and peace.

19 Not a day goes by when the life, work and teachings of Martin Luther don't influence the church and our faith journey. We remember in prayer lay leaders and rostered ministers, theologians, teachers and people of faith throughout the history who have challenged, taught and encouraged us that we might mature in faith and be more fully equipped to do God's work in the world.

20 We pray to know and trust God's ways and paths, truth and word, mercy and steadfast love, and that we will treasure and demonstrate in our daily life these truths and qualities for the sake of the world.

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

22 Pray for seafarers and fishermen of all nationalities and faiths who often spend months at sea,

isolated from family, friends and home communities. Pray for their safety and care and that the Spirit of God will stir in them faith that gives hope, strength, peace and the knowledge that they are part of the body of Christ – a global community of faith that bridges all oceans, nations, distances and time.

23 We ask God to keep us focused on the cross, not as a religious object, work of art or cultural symbol but as a clear reminder of what God has done for us through the life, suffering, death and resurrection of God's son, Jesus Christ – our very real hope and salvation, God's gracious gift for humanity.

24 Give thanks for the impact of the 13 Global Mission Projects undertaken at the invitation of our companion churches and supported through The Campaign for the ELCA. Pray these projects and partner relationships will flourish as they help build new congregations, reach out to young people, train pastors and evangelists, strengthen existing ministries and grow the church.

25 Bold Women's Day Today – and every day – we recognize and celebrate Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ in diverse contexts everywhere in the world.

26 The ELCA Leadership Initiative encourages us to seek out and inspire gifted people in our congregations and communities to consider a call to the ministry of the gospel as pastors, deacons and lay leaders. Ask God to help us be perceptive and assertive in identifying, inviting, encouraging and supporting potential leaders in responding to God's call to ministry.

27 We pray that in our Lenten reflections and conversations we are truthful with ourselves and each other, trust in God's love and mercy that frees us to move forward grounded in the gospel to serve our neighbor without bias, encourage and care for one another as sisters and brothers in Christ, and move beyond any hesitations or fears we may have about participating in God's work in the world.

28 Thank God for the work of the ELCA Youth Ministry Network as it strives with its ministry partners to renew, educate, support and strengthen leaders – lay and rostered, paid and volunteer – serving in children, youth and family ministry in congregations, synods and outdoor ministries.

Peace Lutheran Church

Non-Profit Organization
1301 Avenue D
Billings, MT 59102-3196

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



God's Work.
Our hands.

February 2018



Lenten Worship Services
Wednesday Evenings

February 14 - March 21
6:00 pm Soup Supper
7:00 pm Worship

