



Herald of Peace

February 2019

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
peacelcyouth@gmail.com
office 252-5504 cell 698-5576
Intern Pastor: Ann Bjorklund
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



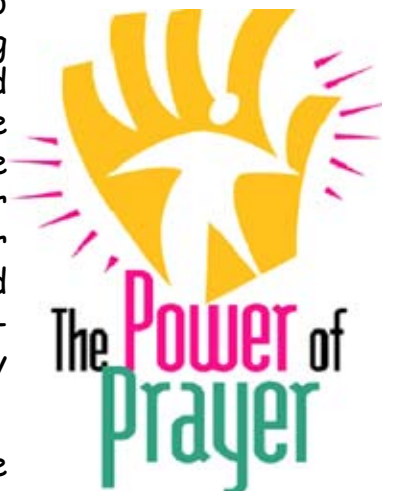
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



*O God of many names
Lover of all nations
We pray for peace
In our hearts
in our homes
in our nations
in our world
The peace of your will
The peace of our need
- George Appleton*

The prayer life of the community of Peace has been on my heart these days. I asked your church council at our January meeting to share who and what they have been praying for in their devotional time and prayer time. Their answers were inspiring and humbling. They are praying for the world and for our country. They are praying for their loved ones for healing and for strangers they've encountered in their daily lives. They are praying for you too.

I had let my subscription to the Billings Gazette lapse a year ago. My chief reasons were that it seemed to get slimmer and slimmer and I just didn't have the time to read it. (A strange combination of reasons, right?) Over the past



Prayer Concerns of those we prayed for January 2019

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

Ron & Karen Johnson - on Karen's surgery
LaWanda Sherseth - healing
Annette Reich - Aspen View
Gary Broeder - healing
Tina Fritz - healing
Phyllis McGrath - recovery
John Modde - recovery
Kathleen Gregg - healing
Lisa Grimsley - healing
Ken, Carol Hoefner and family
Larry Heiser –

For illness or injuries .. of family and friends.

Loretta - Marge Peterson's sister in the hospital
Malcom - 6 yrs. old with a brain tumor
Butch - Intern Ann's father - healing

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

Rako Zech & family, Ron's Zech son - cancer diagnosis

Lisa Miller - Bonnie Clausen's friend reoccurrence cancer

Warren Peterson - healing

Gary Fink - healing

Ann Strecker - friend of Rick & Barb Olson - healing

Joan and Jerrie - Jackie Fayram sisters, memory loss

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 friends) has been diagnosed with ALS

Shawn Hanser

Greg Goodheart

Bonnie & Kevin - healing and strength

Emily - prayers for strength

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

Kari - healing and strength

Bud Leuthold - friend of Joy Lindberg leukemia

For those grieving...

Pastor Paul Skatrud - Mickelson and family on the death of Ellen

The Reverend Dr. Ellen Jean Skatrud-Mickelson was baptized and "put on Christ" early in life as an infant. Then December 26th like Apostle John in Revelations 5, she experienced 'a new heaven and earth' after 66 years of age; experience and ministry, dying at home with the assistance of Cornerstone Hospice. Memorial gifts will be given through Hope Lutheran Church to the ELCA Refugee Resettlement Fund and Wartburg Theological Seminary. A memorial service is planned at Hope Lutheran, The Villages, FL Monday February 18th at 11am and is viewable online live at Hope2all.org.

Pastor Ellen's obituary along with Pastor Paul's address can be found posted on the office bulletin board.

Congregational News

A Day in the Life of the Intern

I was in sales for many years before going to seminary. Over the years, many people have said, "I could never sell anything." I then ask, "Have you ever seen a good movie or been to a restaurant that you really liked and then recommended it to someone else?" I remind them that they were sharing a good experience with someone else.

As Lutherans, we sometimes aren't so sure about the term "evangelical" because we may think of it as proselytizing, maybe even coercing someone to believe the way we do, or some other variety of definitions we may have heard. Evangelism comes from the Greek word "euangelion" which means "good news" or "gospel." When we share the good news of the ways Jesus Christ works in our life, we are being evangelical. Maybe it's our words, our actions, or the combination. The season of Epiphany is about revealing Christ to the nations and as light to the world.

I pray that the light of Christ shines through each of us as we share the Good News with those around us!

Blessings,

Intern Pastor Ann

Our letters from Council Members continue:

From Mike Brown

Dear People of Peace,

In my daily prayers I ask that our congregation be blessed as you have blessed my family and me. In the darkest of times in our lives you have prayed for us, brought us food, worked in our places, and taught us the meaning of "love thy neighbor."

Many times in my life I have felt like "the least of these" and your loving kindnesses have always been there to cheer me on. Is it possible that your love is truly blind to the infirmities that all of us suffer inside and out? I believe it is! Or as Martin Luther would say, "This is most certainly true!"

If I could ask for one thing from our congregation it would be that you continue to show that love, patience, and tolerance to all those who enter our place of worship. God will sort of the mistakes we might make in His loving way. That's His job, not mine.

As we continue to walk in the way of Christ, let us all join hearts and hands and show others the goodness and love that God has put in our hearts.

Your servant in God's name,

Mike Brown



Making Christ Available to All

Congregational News

year I found I missed it a bit. This was mostly when I had not read a story from our community that one of you mentioned to me. I wasn't spurred by this to renew because like many of you I found what was primarily in the news was depressing to me and I found it easier to go about my day if I could ignore some of the finer details of the day.

Last week I received a phone call from the paper. They were offering a deal that was 1/3 of the price I'd been paying before. Did I want to get the paper again? I didn't want to get it because of the bad stuff I would read about. I knew I personally needed to subscribe because this was going to shape my prayer life in 2019.

This year instead of being depressed or anxious about the stories in the paper I'm going to pray through the Gazette. I'm going to take the time to read the stories and pray for all those involved. I will pray for my neighbors who I know. I will pray for Montanans I've never met. I will pray for the leaders of this nation and for the leaders of every nation. I've told you my four favorite words in scripture are, "Do not be afraid" and I'm praying for God to give me eyes of hope and action.

When we pray we are preparing to move. These are not simply words recited and forgotten. Prayer is a blueprint for the day ahead and a reminder that we are not a fearful people. We are a people of peace.

Subscribing to the paper is not necessary for your life of prayer, but I wanted to share with you how I'm shaping my year ahead. Blessings to you in your daily prayers.

Peace,
Will +



Fat Tuesday is March 5th! 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.



Altar Flowers: The new altar flower chart is on the wall next to the church office. The charge per Sunday is \$20.00. Please sign up with memorial or remembrance for 2019. Lamp oil sign up



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 March 6th 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.



Worship News

February Worship Themes

Epiphany, baptism, temptation, teaching! Join us as we hear from Matthew's Gospel

(Sermon focus texts are in bold.)

January 5th & 6th Epiphany

We Saw the Light

Readings: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; **Matthew 2:1-23**

An "epiphany" is a revelation or manifestation. We hear about Jesus being manifested as God and man. Find out what that means for us.

January 12th & 13th Baptism of Our Lord

Beloved

Readings: Psalm 29; **Matthew 3:1-17**

There are powerful words we hear spoken into our lives. Being told we are loved are some of the most powerful. The God who loves us sent Jesus to demonstrate that love. Come and listen.

January 19th & 20th Second weekend after Epiphany

Beginning

Readings: Psalm 36:5-10; **Matthew 4:1-17**

How does a journey start? First you need to know who you are and where you are going. Before Jesus begins his earthly ministry he is tested. This testing shows where Jesus' foundation is found.

January 26th & 27th Third weekend after Epiphany

Blessed Are

Readings: Psalm 19; **Matthew 5:1-20**

What does this life of following look like? Jesus tells the crowd the words of comfort and challenge that we know as The Beattitudes. They speak to us today still. You are blessed!

Mid-Week Worship Service at Peace!!!

Everyone is invited to attend

Compline (night prayer) service

The Second Wednesday of the month Jan. 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Holden Evening Prayer Service

The Fourth Wednesday of the month Jan. 23 at 7:00

**Holden
Evening
Prayer**

Marty Haugen



Compline Worship

Capital Campaign Update

We are moving closer to our goal!

We have received over \$70,000 in pledg-

ward our \$100,000 target. Thank you!

Thank you!

‡

has helped us move ever closer to our goal. Thank you!

We are trying a new thing! At 9 am on February 7th we will start our mid-week / mid-morning Bible study. All are welcome to join for this weekly dive into God's word. If you have questions contact Will.



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 3rd. Come support your football favorite for the big game while supporting a great cause.



Lenten Offerings- Lutheran World Relief, Habitat for Humanity, Peace Food Pantry, Christikon, Amani for Africa, Prison Ministry.



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.

Family Promise at Peace

You're invited to our 8th Annual Beach Blizzard Party for the Promise!! Feb 16th 5:30 P.m., hosted at the Double Tree Hotel. We will be celebrating "Under the Sea", a warm escape from the chills of winter. There will be an amazing dinner, and live and silent auctions planned for you. Tickets sell for \$125 a person. A table for 8 is \$1000. You can purchase a ticket by calling our office at 406-294-7432. All proceeds go to Family Promise to help homeless families achieve and sustain independence.



Food Pantry Update

Thanks to a generous donation of a Thriven Action Grant the Food Pantry can now receive frozen foods. As you are out shopping please think of the many families that come to our pantry and consider a gift of frozen vegetables, fruit, or meats. Thank you for your generosity!

Peace Lutheran Church ELCA



FOOD DONATION WEEKEND

February 2nd & 3rd

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.



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 \$32 per week. If you are interested the sign-up sheet is located in the narthex. Thank you!!



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



Do you want to dig deeper into the word? Join us February 6th & 13th at 7pm as we begin our study of the Gospel of Matthew. Women and men, young and old are welcome! This Bible study will be meeting on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each

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 10. Your contribution of love to our college students is greatly appreciated. If you have questions, please contact Dean Jenson or Sharon Schatzke.



Christikon Clips February 2019

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 coming on Sunday, April 7th. Early this year!

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.*



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

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.



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 Second Saturday at 10:30 am at Peace

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.

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 - 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**

February 21st

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



Education and Youth News

Peace Youth's 3rd Annual Fundraiser Dinner 6:30-8:30 PM

With the way Lent and Easter fall this year, we are doing the Youth Fundraiser dinner on February 15th. At \$8 a ticket, you can enjoy a night filled with dinner served by your youth, a dessert auction, a silent auction, and great company.

Last year, we had over 40 guests fill the Fellowship Hall, and we raised over \$1500. This year, the proceeds will help fund our mission trip to Seattle that will take place in early August.

Mark your calendars for February 15th. We will look forward to serving you, your friends, and family. All are welcome. We even have babysitting available for kids for \$5/kid that includes a meal.

If you're interested in joining us on the 15th, please let Vanessa know by sending an email to:
peacelcyouth@gmail.com
or sending a text to:
406-698-5576

February ReFuel Meals

February 6th- Sloppy Joes

*February 13th- Chili and Cinnamon Rolls

February 20th- Spaghetti

*February 27th- Breakfast for Dinner



Fat Tuesday

Join us on March 5th 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.

What is Fat Tuesday?

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.

Vacation Bible School will be June 3rd-7th

Community News

Words from the Bishop:

Who needs the ELCA? (Hint: We do.)

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.” (I Corinthians 12: 12)

It is the season of Epiphany, when we celebrate the light shining in the darkness and the darkness not overcoming it. Traditionally, the season of Epiphany has been a time when the church highlighted the global nature of the church. And, back home, most of our congregations utilize the season of Epiphany to have annual meetings. (A letter to congregations from the Synod Bishop is next in this e-newsletter, and is also on the synod website.)

Annual meetings. Ideally, when we get together as congregations, we look at what we have done in the past year, and plan our ministry for the next year. As ELCA congregations, our ministry is not just to ourselves and to those who happen to come through our doors. Our ministry is our community, our Synod, and the wider church. And that wider ministry happens through the ELCA.

We are a connected church. We know that we are able to do more ministry and more effective ministry because we are partnered with one another. The annual meeting is a time to approve a budget, which includes mission support. Congregations send money to the Montana Synod, and the Synod sends approximately 40% of that on to the wider church through the ELCA.

What does the Synod do with the rest of the money? We support campus ministry at the University of Montana and Montana State University. We support the Northern Rockies Institute of Theology, which provides continuing theological education and lifelong learning to clergy and laity in the Synod. We support Lutheran Social Services. We support Freedom in Christ Prison Ministry, Our Saviour’s Rocky Boy and Spirit of Life on the Fort Peck Reservation. We provide the LPA training program to equip lay preachers and deeper faith and witness. We support first call pastors with First Call Theological Education. We shepherd candi-



Montana Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

dates through the candidacy process, and we work with congregations and pastors during pastoral vacancies.

We foster relationships with our companion synods (Bolivia and the Cape Orange Diocese of South Africa.) We work with congregations in transition and in conflict.

The wider church is able to reach out on our behalf across the globe, through the world hunger program, through Lutheran Disaster Response, through ELCA seminaries and colleges, through global partnerships, through ecumenical relationships. We live in a connected world, and we have a connected church. Because of that we can share lay ministry curricula with our companion church in Bolivia. We can learn best ways to support the hurricane recovery for the people of Puerto Rico. We can learn about famine in Africa. We can learn about unaccompanied minors at the southern border, and efforts to care for them.

This week I returned from a gathering of ELCA Bishops focused on the care of creation—from biblical, theological and advocacy perspectives. We visited a congregation that meets outdoors year round, and has a community garden to share with their neighbors. Jason Asselstine, from our staff, has been at a church-sponsored training on family systems—how to live together as congregations, as communities and avoid the kinds of conflict that paralyze. Peggy Paugh Leuzinger, also from our staff is at a church-sponsored training, along with 3 other pastors from the synod, on faith-based community organizing, finding tools for more effective outreach ministry in the communities we serve. We use these opportunities to learn and grow, so that we might better serve the Montana Synod.

And then we return from these trainings to do ordinations and installations, and meetings with congregations that we serve.

May God bless your congregation as you meet in your annual meeting and discern together what God is calling you to do! And please let us know. We learn from one another.

In Christ, Jessica Crist, Bishop



February 2019

1 *Black History Month* Give thanks for our sisters and brothers of African descent, who have both suffered much and contributed much to our nation and the ongoing work of building a multicultural church and restoring and reconciling communities in the name of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

2 Give thanks for children and youth in our lives and congregations, for the gifts they bring to the body of Christ and for the leaders, teachers and members who nurture and encourage them.

3 The good news of Jesus Christ, God's love and the promise of eternal life bring us joy, but we sometimes find ourselves troubled and irritated by God's desire for us to exercise justice and peace and immerse ourselves in serving our neighbors in need – without hesitation or prejudice. Pray the Holy Spirit will work in our hearts to change our attitudes, bias and self-centeredness, setting us free to be willing, committed disciples and servants in the world.

4 Remember in prayer regions of the world embroiled in conflict and turmoil, that leaders of nations and people involved and impacted will work together for peaceful, just and lasting resolution and reconciliation; pray especially for the safety and well-being of people who have and continue to suffer loss, disrupted lives and displacement from their homes, communities or nations as a result of violence, persecution or economic collapse in these areas.

5 Remember in prayer ELCA missionaries serving in collaboration with the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church, especially in ministries of evangelism and education. Give thanks and pray for the 18 international leaders who have received ELCA educational scholarships to further develop their skills for service in the church in Japan.

6 What is love? Where is it scarce or misguided in our relationships and how we live out our faith? Ask God to deepen and mature our understanding of love and center us in the love we, as baptized children of God, are called to share generously with others.

7 Thank God for the special relationship we have with the Episcopal Church, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1999; pray for the church, its members and leaders, and that together we find strength and new resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.

8 The Lord is our refuge, rock, protection, hope and trust throughout life. Give thanks and praise!

9 Give thanks for the work and impact of ELCA World Hunger. Pray we all seek ways of being working, generous partners in breaking the cycle of hunger and poverty, providing immediate and long-term assistance, and bringing hope to individuals, communities and regions of the world that suffer from hunger and poverty.

10 Consider what stirred you to follow Jesus and grow in faith. Pray for the Holy Spirit to fill you with courage and confidence to invite others to believe and follow.

11 Pray for our seven ELCA seminaries, that their faculty and staff are strengthened, inspired and sustained in their work of preparing men and women for public ministry in a multitude of contexts and communities here and around the world.

12 Give thanks for entrepreneurs of all ages in our congregations, and pray we value their energy, ideas, skills, curiosity and creative perspectives as assets that can be used for ministry and serving our neighbor.

13 Called by God to serve as a prophet, Isaiah felt ill-equipped, reluctant and that he was a poor choice for the task – until God's spirit moved him to reply, "Here I am; send me!" Pray we are open to the work God is calling us to do in our congregations, communities and the world, and, in spite of our hesitations and insecurities, are able to trust God's forgiveness and empowering love by responding, "Here I am; send me!"



February 2019

14 ELCA gifts and offerings support leadership development, education and collaboration in China. We partner with the local church and organizations to respond to health, hunger and leadership development needs; 10 international leaders have received scholarships to further develop their skills for service in the church in China. Give thanks to God for what we are able to accomplish through working together.

15 Give thanks for the good news of Jesus Christ that we have received through faith, and pray we eagerly and unashamedly work to proclaim the gospel in the world with all who will listen – with friends and strangers alike.

16 Continue to pray for and support parents, families, friends and communities that have suffered the tragic loss of loved ones as a result of gun violence. Pray we are filled with empathy and care for the long and difficult healing they may go through, and that the Holy Spirit will help us be bold, wise agents and advocates of change to prevent and end the violence across our nation.

17 Jesus compels us to serve our neighbor and be a blessing to others – friends, strangers, enemies, outcasts, hungry and poor alike. Thank God for inviting us to join in God's work in the world and ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance and help with the service and challenges to which we have been called.

18 Martin Luther, died 1546 Give thanks for the life, faith and teachings of Martin Luther, who worked with tenacity and courage to serve Christ while also confessing his personal struggles, questions and human weaknesses; pray we, too, are faithful in our baptismal journeys and not easily discouraged by the complexities of life, risks and our self-doubts.

19 Lift up thanks and praise for our life with God, a life filled with promise, hope and blessings that nourish us each and every day; a life and relationship that God desires for all people.

20 Pray members and leaders of our congregations are bold yet humble servants of Christ who embrace ongoing self-reflection, study of Scripture, evaluation, prayerful conversation and creative planning for the purpose of doing God's work in the world and growing the church.

21 Pray we find joy, wisdom and nourishment in following the word and paths of God in the midst of everything else competing for attention and influence in our lives.

22 Praise God for revealing to the world the risen Christ who is not bound by the consequences of human sin and death, but instead gifts us – through faith – with the truth and certainty of God's love, forgiveness and eternal life.

23 Give thanks for the energetic participation in "God's work. Our hands." Sunday each fall and for the resulting partnerships and community service that stretch throughout the year.

24 Ask God to help us listen to and wrap our lives around the straightforward teachings of Jesus that implore us to be merciful, generous, love our enemies, do good to those who hate us and not judge others – attitudes and actions that may not come easily to us.

25 Give thanks for the Deaconess Community, a Christ-centered community of women who devote their lives to proclaiming the gospel through ministries of mercy and servant leadership in diverse community and ministry contexts.

26 Remember God's love and forgiveness, and pray we are moved to demonstrate the same grace and forgiveness – as Joseph did with his brothers who sold him into slavery – with people with whom we have experienced offense, conflict or broken relationships.

27 Give thanks for the Research and Evaluation services of our church, which assist congregations and synods in exploring their communities, demographics and trends, ministry opportunities and challenges, and provide resources and insights for planning and renewing ministries.

28 What have you been worrying about lately? Share your concerns with God; trust in the Lord, be still, don't fret and go about doing good in the world.

Peace Lutheran Church

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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Our hands.**

