



Herald of Peace

May 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
Draeger, Dave	698-1333
Finn, Susan	534-1860
Miller, Holli	656-6847
Pecarina, Tony	679-3880
Peterson, Bryan	671-1301
Sider, Melissa	281-7334
Strosky, Linda	661-2626
Welliever, Dean	652-9365

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.



As long as you notice, and have to count, the steps, you are not yet dancing but only learning to dance. A good shoe is a shoe you don't notice. Good reading becomes possible when you need not consciously think about eyes, or light, or print, or spelling. The perfect church service would be one we were almost unaware of; our attention would have been on God.

C. S. Lewis (From "Letters to Malcolm")

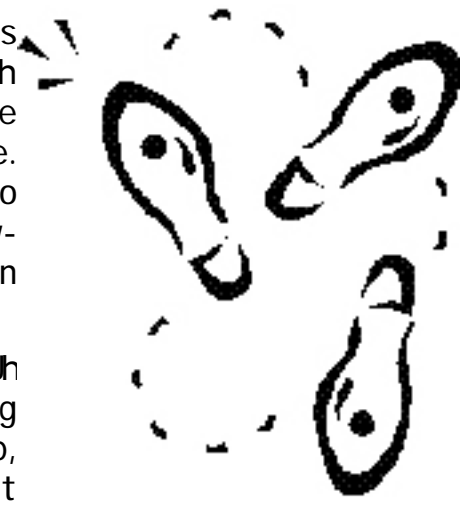
The way that Jesus taught his disciples was genius. He told them to focus on him and what he was doing. Jesus told his disciples that they would be doing the same things he was and directed them through four stages.

<YfYg\k\Uh'h\Uh`cc_g`]Y.'>

1. I do - you watch
2. I do - you participate
3. You do - I participate
4. You do - I watch.

Again and again Jesus led his beloved followers through these four stages and the goal was always the same. That they and we would go through this life of following with our eyes focused on ; cX`UbX'; cXg`cj Y"

=ñ` bch'a i V\`cZ`U`XUbWf`Uh all. Kaia has tried teaching me to waltz and two step, but my brain and my feet seem to enjoy disagreeing about who is in charge. I t is



Prayer Concerns of those we prayed for April 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
John Modde - recovery
Kathleen Gregg - healing
Lisa Grimsley - healing
Ken, Carol Hoefner and family
Larry Heiser –

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).



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
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
Laura Fisher (Jodi Peterson's cousin) cancer
Micah Hilario, son-in-law of Linda & Gary Branae, (Lois Gorseth friends) has been diagnosed with ALS
Shawn Hanser
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...
Robin, Wendy, John & Kiley Goodheart on the death Greg Goodheart



May 27th

We remember our military personnel who have given their lives to protect our freedom!

Congregational News

A Day in the Life of the Intern

Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. Matthew 6:31-32

I was recently in a deer/truck accident.

As soon as it happened, I was immediately tended to by two onlookers who were on the sidewalk on the other side of the street, as well another driver that stopped and asked if I was okay. They helped me move the deer and remove the broken truck parts off the road so they wouldn't be a hazard to other drivers.

As an outdoorswoman, I'm also mindful of not wanting the deer to go to waste. Since it was Holy Week, there was a lot going on and my time was limited. I had a neighbor that generously helped me to prepare the deer which helped me save on time.

There is more to be done regarding truck repairs, but there have been generous people to assist me in the process.

In this instance, and so many more, God has been providing for me in generous ways, knowing the things that I need. All I've had to do is look at the things that take place in my life to recognize the ways that God provides. What are the ways God provides for your needs?

Blessings!

Intern Pastor Ann

Graduate Recognition Sunday for our Peace Lutheran Church Graduates will be May 5th, at the 10 am Worship Service. We look forward to worshipping with our graduates, honoring them and also praying for them during this important time in their lives.

Graduates are:

High School

Joise Peterson

College

Mikel Julian, Sarah Popp,

Vanessa Steiger, Kevin Weliever



I devoted myself to
study and to explore...
all that is done
under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 1:13

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!!



The Next newsletter will be for the months of June & July. Please look ahead at your groups or committees activities for the entire summer so we can get the information into the newsletter.

Congregational News

con't from pg. 1

not a pretty sight. But if you hand me a guitar my fingers go right to the shapes I need my individual part.

5bch\Yf [Yb]i g'dUfh'cZ'>Ygi g'hYUW\]b['i g'hc'ZcW'g]g'h\ Uh]h'ghf]dg'Uk Umh\Y'gY'Z! W'bhYfYX-ness that comes so easily to us. Jesus gave away authority! Jesus entrusted the message of the Gospel to others. He told his disciples they would do greater things that he did. Can you imagine? Not many leaders are secure enough in their leadership to proclaim for the start that their students would rise to such heights.

As always with Jesus it is a different reality than with the world. Rising to great heights]b'h\Y'_]b[Xca'cZ'; cX'a YUbg'h\Uh'k Y'gYfj Y'a cfY'ZU]h\Zi'`m]bghYUX'cZ'VY]b['gYfj YX''F]g]b['hc [fYUh'\Y][\hg']b'h\Y'_]b[Xca' a YUbg'h\Uh'k Y']bj]hY'ch\Yf'g'hc'gYY'k \Uh'; cX']g'Xc]b['UbX' not what we are doing.

K Y'\YUFX']b'h\Y'dUFUW'Y'cZ'`i X[a Ybh'Zfca' A Uhh\Yk' &) 'h\Uh'h\Y'cbYg'k \c'ZYXZ'Wch\YXZ' j]g]hYXZ'UbX'WfYX'Zcf'h\Y'_]b['bYj Yf'fYU']nYX'h\YmX]X'h'Uh'U''>Ygi g'gUhg'k \Yb'k Y'WfY'Zcf'h\Y'YUgh'UbX'h\Y'`cgh'k Y'WfY'Zcf'fcnt'hm'K]h\ci'f'ZcW'g'cb'']b]b['i d'ci'f'j]g]cb'k]h\ ; cX']j]g]cb'Zcf'h\Y'k cf'X'k Y'gYfj Y']b'XYydYf'UbX' [fYUhYf'k Uhg''=h']g'U'VYUi h]Zi'`XUbW'k \YfY'k Y'Xcb']Yj Yb'bch]W'h\Y'ghYdg''=h']U'`cj Y'migcb['k \YfY'h\Y'bchYg'UbX'k cfXg'Z'ck' naturally.

H\]g'9UghYf'gYUgcb'`Yh'i g'^c]b]b'h\Y'gcb['UbX'XUbW'cZ'; cX']a'cj Ya Ybh']b'h\Y'k cf'X']b'`cj Y and service.

Peace,
K]''Z'

Peace Quilters



We have about 65 quilts ready for shipment to Minneapolis for Lutheran World Relief. The truck will be coming the 2nd Saturday in May, the 11th so we will be putting the quilts on the pews for display on May 4th & 5th.

We will sell some quilts, if anyone is interested in buying. The price is \$45.00, same as last year. A quilter will be available after services on Saturday, the 4th and on Sunday, the 5th to help buyers.

We donated a beautiful flower basket quilt to Christikon Auction which sold for \$150.00. We appreciate all the work Bernie and Kay did in finishing the quilt for us. Thank You!

We will be meeting the 1st, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in May to finish up our work for this year. Anyone interested in joining us is welcome. Coffee and goodies are ready about 10:30 am.

Worship News

May Worship Themes

What does life for the early church look like? What are the questions and concerns?

In May we see the Good News spread like wildfire.

(Sermon focus texts are in bold.)

May 4th & 5th Third Weekend of Easter "Lord of All"

Readings: Psalm 30; Matthew 9:36-37; **Acts 10:1-17, 34-48**

Cornelius and Peter have visions. The Gospel is shared to a wider audience. The Spirit moves in ways that shocks the disciples. God is on the move. Come and see.

May 11th & 12th Fourth Weekend of Easter "Who Is Your God?"

Readings: Psalm 23; Matthew 10:40-42; **Acts 13:1-3, 14:8-18**

Paul and Barnabus are treated as gods. How do we sometimes misplace our trust and faith and turn other people or things into gods?

May 18th & 19th Fifth Weekend of Easter "Good News!"

Readings: Psalm 148; Matt 9:10-13; **Romans 1:1-17**

Paul reminds the people that the gospel is for Jews and Gentiles. That's us!

May 25th & 26th Sixth Weekend of Easter "Enemies"

Readings: Psalm 67; Matthew 11:28-30; **Romans 3:28-30, 5:1-11**

We continue in Paul's letter to the church in Rome. Sometimes he can be tough to follow, but here Paul is laying the truth out as clear as day. We have opposed God and God's will, but God comes to us in love. We have been enemies, but God sees family.

Mid-Week Worship Service at Peace!!!

Everyone is invited to attend

Compline (night prayer) service

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

Holden Evening Prayer Service

The Fourth Wednesday of the month May 23 at 7:00

**Holden
Evening
Prayer**

Marty Haugen



Compline Worship Service



Celebrate Women

On the weekend of May 11th & 12th we will be celebrating all women. Join us for worship either Saturday or Sunday for special worship litany, roses for all women and registration for a beautiful Mother's Day floral arrangement. Come join us in the celebration of women.

Mission and Service News

Mission & Service Update

The Mission and Service committee continues to offer many opportunities to serve others. Please consider praying for where you can personally be doing God's work with your hands, and pray for those who will actively participate..

Here are the upcoming Mission and Service opportunities.

- ➔ **Family Promise** – Watch for information in the summer newsletter article about our next hosting dates of the Week of August 11 and the opportunity to serve.
- ➔ **Quilt/Soap Shipment Offering-** An offering to Lutheran World Relief will be taken the weekend of the Quilt Blessing in May to help with shipment costs of quilts and soap to disaster areas. It costs Lutheran World relief \$2.50 to ship each quilt to a disaster area.
- ➔ **Christikon Work Weekend-** Consider helping at camp the weekend of May 24-27 as numerous volunteers gather to get the camp ready for the summer season. Many talents and hands are needed on a very busy weekend.

Thank you for participating in any areas that you are able as we continue to reach out in service as God's people. The committee meets again in May, and we will be discussing upcoming summer volunteer opportunities. More to come!

Family Service is in need of volunteers to help with Letter Carriers Food Drive on Saturday May 11th. Volunteers will be stationed at all Post Offices. They help move the donated food the carriers receive to a waiting truck. There will be a tent, they ask that you bring your own chair. The shifts are 1:30 - 3:30 pm, 3:30 - 5:30 pm or 1:30 - 5:30 pm. Please contact Jennifer Lackman @ 384-0060 or jlackman@famser.com. Thank You



FOOD DONATION WEEKEND May 4th & 5th

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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.



Thank you for generous offerings during Lent
Peace sent out the following:

\$848.68- Lutheran World Relief
\$472.50 - Habitat for Humanity
\$601.00 - Peace Food Pantry
\$619.00 - Christikon
\$692.00 - Amani for Africa
\$465.00 - Freedom in Christ Prison Ministry



COME JOIN OUR
BIBLE Do you want to dig deeper into the word?
Study Join us May 1st and 15th at 7pm as we begin our study of the Gospel of Matthew. All are welcome!

Everyone is invited Thursdays at 9 am for our mid-week / mid-morning Bible study. All are welcome to join for this weekly dive into God's word. We have started in the book of Romans. If you have questions contact Will.

Congregational News

INTERN NEWS

Hello! Here's a little bit about me: I grew up in Carol Stream, IL, a western suburb of Chicago. My parents, Jeff and Denise, are retired and split their time between living in Carol Stream in the winter and at our cabin in northwestern Ontario in the summer. My younger sister, Kristen, lives in LaGrange, IL and is the Operations Manager for the OR at a hospital there. My Lutheran roots go back quite a few generations on my mom's side of the family and I grew up going to Sunday School and worship every week.

I went to Augustana College in Rock Island, IL for my undergrad where I majored in Spanish and Psychology. I had the opportunity to study abroad in Peru, Ecuador, Brazil, and Mexico which really changed my perspective on the world and the role of faith in my life. After college, I pursued a M.A. in Social Justice from Loyola University in Chicago which helped me develop a firm Biblical and theological foundation along with some practical skills in working for social justice. I worked at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Carol Stream as the Communications Coordinator and then after few months took on the role of the Social Ministry Director as well. I also worked part-time at Feed My Starving Children coordinating volunteers during this time. My work at Our Savior and Feed My Starving Children helped me to discern a call to pastoral ministry and I finally allowed myself to acknowledge and embrace longings that had been with me for many years.

I moved up to St. Paul, MN in the fall of 2017 to begin my studies at Luther Seminary. The opportunities to learn and grow have been abundant these past two years through courses I've taken, building friendships with my classmates, and the contexts of chaplaincy and the diversity of the Twin Cities.

Travel and adventure have been significant parts of my life- I love seeing and experiencing new places and learning from the people I meet along the way! I've traveled to El Salvador eleven times participating in and leading trips of partnership and accompaniment with Lutheran churches in El Salvador. In the summer of 2017 I walked 500 miles of the Camino de Santiago in Spain. I have also traveled to Haiti, Italy, the Netherlands, Israel, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Canada. In the summer of 2018 I biked from Seattle to New York City to raise money for feeding programs for refugees in Southeast Asia (we biked through Billings and I can't wait to return to Montana!).

I find great joy in long distance cycling and baking sourdough bread. In both activities, there's always more to see, learn, experience, and challenge myself. I have been delightfully surprised by the community that has been developed around these activities and all I have learned about God in the process!



Save Your Stamps- Congregational Life committee is asking that if you shop at Albertsons and are not collecting stamps for the Farberware Promotion please consider asking for the stamps with every \$10 purchase. We will then use those stamps for helping families who are moving out of Family Promise in setting up their new household. Please put the stamps in the envelope outside of the church office. This promotions lasts until May 21st Thank You



3 sets of Pots & Pan for Family Promise
Lets see if we can get 3 more!

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.

May Serving group

Ione Bloom - chair
Rhonda Hanson
Larry Hanson
Mary Ann/Ron Conboy
Marge Farmer
Nancy Whitmer
Claudia/John Decker
Marge/Ken Peterson
Melissa Sider
Karen/Keith Hann
Wanda/Barney Helland
Kayla Bettise

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 - Dewey Anderson
- Vice President - Dean Welliever
- Secretary - Linda Strosky
- Dewey Anderson - Abundant Life, Executive
- Mike Brown - Abundant Life, Property
- Dave Draeger - Worship
- Susan Finn - Congregational Life
- Holli Miller - Congregational Life
- Tony Peccarino - Youth/Education
- Bryan Peterson- Mission & Service
- Melissa Sider - Youth/Education
- Linda Strosky- Mission & Service, Executive
- Dean Welliever - Property, Executive

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

- Vanessa Steiger
- Kaia Sappington
- Mike Brown

Lutheran Center

- Rhonda Hanson
- Debbie Sider

Shepherd Cluster

- Joan Brown
- Bonnie Hovik Calusen

Endowment Trustee

- Ed Popp
- Bernie Mason
- Dean Welliever
- Molly Johnson
- Rhonda Hanson

Nominating Committee

- Dewey Anderson
- Melissa Sider
- Paul Strosky
- Erl Barsness
- Dave Draeger

Questions about Council Activities? If

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

President Dewey Anderson
Vice-President Dean Welliever

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!**

RE M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS**

May 18th

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



Education and Youth News

Vacation Bible School

June 3rd-7th

9:00 AM- 12:00 PM

Registration is live!

You can register at peacelutheranbillings.com or by contacting Vanessa at: peacelcyouth@gmail.com or 406-698-5576

This year's theme is:

o k

We never have to feel lost. God is always on our side. This year at Vacation Bible School, come hear a few stories about being found!



What is Vacation Bible School?

Vacation Bible School is a week long religious education program that happens at Peace (and other churches too). At our VBS, we sing, do crafts, play games, do outreach projects, and learn about God through stories in the Bible. Come join us for a week full of fun!

Here are our daily themes for the week:

Monday: Jonah and the Whale

Tuesday: The Lost Sheep

Wednesday: The Lost Coin

Thursday: Peter

Friday: Ask, Seek, Knock



There will be no Wednesday night activities on June 5th due to Vacation Bible School week.

Wednesday Summer Nights

Even when school is out, we will still have Peace Pals and Peace Youth! Peace Pals is for everyone in elementary, and Peace Youth is for Middle and High School aged kids.

Peace Pals: 5:30-6:30 PM

Dinner: 6:30-7:00 PM

Peace Youth- 7:00-8:30 PM

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[unclear] †

FY: i Y`A YU`g`

A Um%ph! `6fYU_ZUgh`Zcf`8]bbYf`

May 8th- DJazz

A Um%) h! `<ch`8c[g`

May 22nd- Spaghetti and

Meatballs

A Um&- h! `GUbXk jWYg`

‡ bY`) h! `Bc`FYZi Y`

Worship nights are in bold

Christikon

Some of our Confirmation crew will be attending Christikon June 23rd-28th. If you are interested in attending, please contact Vanessa!





**Search and Rescue
Peace Lutheran Church
Vacation Bible School 2019
June 3rd-7th 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Free Shirt Deadline: May 24th**

Parent/Guardian Name: _____
 Street Address: _____ City/State: _____ Zip: _____
 Home Phone Number: _____ Cell : _____
 E-mail Address: _____
 Allergies: _____

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1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							

Preschool Parents: We ask that participants have completed at least one year of Pre-School to attend Vacation Bible School.

PARENTS: We ask all parents to volunteer in our program in some way. There are a variety of options to accommodate your schedule and to ensure the success of our program. Group Guides and Guide Assistants need to commit to the entire week. For all other roles, please indicate which days you are available. Please indicate your 1st, 2nd & 3rd choices!

Indicate 1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd choice	Days	Volunteer Position	Indicate 1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd choice	Days	Volunteer Position
	All week	Group Guide			
	All week	Group Assistant Guide		Before VBS	Home Projects/Prep Work
		Craft Assistant		Sun. 6/2 1:00-3:00	Set up Day
		Games Assistant		Mon- Fri 8:30-10:00	Registration & Records Help
		Snack Assistant		Fri. 6/7 11:30-1:30	Take Down/Clean up
		Outreach Assistant		Fri 6/7 11:00-1:00	BBQ Help

Community News



LETTER CARRIERS'
FOOD DRIVE
 SAT., MAY 11, 2019

PUT YOUR NON-PERISHABLE DONATIONS IN A BAG BY MAILBOX.
 WE'LL DELIVER IT TO FAMILY SERVICES OF BILLINGS

NATIONAL PARTNERS



SAVE THE DATE

All Women are invited to Women of the ELCA
 Beartooth and Shepherd Cluster
 Spring Gathering

Saturday, May 4, 2019

Emmanuel Lutheran
 Shepherd Montana
 Registration and Coffee 9 - 9:30am
 Meeting begins 10 - 11:30 am
 Penny Ronning, keynote speaker
 Noon - Lunch and Basket Raffle
 2pm Closing Worship and Installation

Christikon Clips May 2019



It's not too late to register for camp this summer! Space remains in youth sessions and families/adult sessions, including the **Work Weekend, May 24-27.**

Pathfinders Date: Please note that the dates for Pathfinders are incorrect in the brochure. Correct dates are July 7-10.

You can register online www.christikon.org, or use the forms distributed with the youth and family/adult brochures in your congregation. Or call us at the camp office for further information. Trails? On-site? You pick!

Christikon covers the full costs for each at-risk youth participating in Sojourners Camp. (We expect to have 24 this summer) We invite individuals, congregations and their auxiliaries to consider special giving for camp scholarships this summer.

Special guest speakers become part of the Christikon life this summer during sessions for adults and families. During Continuing Education Retreat (July 29 – Aug 1) and Mountain Weekend (Aug 2-4) we feature **Dr. Chris Johnson and Pastor Mark Gravrock.** Topic details can be found on our website. Come spend a few days of relaxation, learning, and faith growth with us. Full details can be found on our website www.christikon.org.

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

Community News

Words from the Bishop:

In Lent we support congregations

Congregations are the backbone of the church. For all the creative programs that come out of the synod office, seminaries, the churchwide office or the latest internet phenomenon, it is the congregations where people learn about Jesus. It is the congregations where faith is formed, where children are baptized, where the community walks with the sick, the grieving, those who are distressed. It is the congregations where Christians learn about the power of community, about the spiritual practices of praying and hospitality and almsgiving and worship.

Lent gives congregations an opportunity to reinforce some faith practices, and by doing so, to strengthen the congregations. Many congregations add a midweek worship service to their schedule in Lent, and people set aside their normal activities and come together. Many congregations use Lenten offerings to support world hunger, or community projects.

Congregations that participate in Family Promise (where homeless families are housed and fed for week-long stays at participating congregations), or are involved in any volunteer rotation in programs to provide essential services to the



Montana Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

needy may find their routines disrupted. Homelessness does not take a break for Holy Week; hunger doesn't go away just because we have a Lenten soup supper. So, we learn to adapt, to address our congregation's needs while still reaching out to the poor and the needy. That makes us stronger as congregations, not weaker.

Congregational vitality is one of the highest priorities of the ELCA. There are churchwide resources, and our DEM Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger also has resources to measure and work on congregational vitality. Vitality is not measured only by size—membership, budget or worship attendance. In the Montana Synod we have vibrant congregations that have very small membership and few at worship. But they have a sense of why they exist, and it isn't for themselves. It is for their neighbors. It is for the sake of the world.

Lent gives congregations the opportunity to look inward so that they may be strengthened to focus outward.

In Christ,
Jessica Crist, Bishop



THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER | MAY 2, 2019

★ PRAY FOR AMERICA ★

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

LOVE ONE ANOTHER. JUST AS I HAVE LOVED YOU JOHN 13:34

Noon - Thursday May 2nd
Yellowstone County Courthouse Lawn

7-8:30 pm Thursday May 2nd
Friendship House
3123 8th Ave South

Contact: Penny Hudson 406-545-9057



May
2019

1 Throughout Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, give thanks for the rich history, gifts, influence and contributions to our nation of our Asian and Pacific Islander brothers and sisters. Ask God to bless and further the work and witness of ELCA Asian and Pacific Islander Ministries and the Association of Asians and Pacific.

2 **National Day of Prayer** Encourage individuals, congregations and communities to pray, asking the Spirit to help us — and our nation — follow Jesus' instruction to "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12).

3 Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathered for the assemblies of the Southeastern Pennsylvania, Rocky Mountain, Northeastern Minnesota and Minneapolis synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in doing God's work in the world, proclaiming the gospel and growing the church.

4 Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathered for the assemblies of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Western Iowa and Arkansas-Oklahoma synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in doing God's work in the world, proclaiming the gospel and growing the church.

5 How will we react when God calls us to do something or go someplace new and unfamiliar? Pray that we will follow where the spirit of God leads, find companions in ministry to work with and invite others to join in doing God's work in the world.

6 Pray for students who are taking final exams and anticipating employment, further education, or vocations of leadership in the church or military service. Ask God to grant them comfort and reassurance in times of stress and uncertainty, and to provide supportive, attentive and loving people in their lives.

7 Ask God to bless and energize our church's commitment to wholeness for creation in collaboration with ecoAmerica and its Blessed Tomorrow program, which helps faith-based organizations care for creation and elevate their leadership on climate change as a moral, religious and justice issue.

8 The ELCA International Camp Counselor Program, partnering with Lutheran Outdoor Ministries and ELCA Global Mission, trains up to 40 Lutheran young adults from Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America. Pray for these young adults, who serve as leaders and global partners in our summer camp programs. Give thanks for the faith, gifts, leadership skills and global perspectives they bring to their work with children, youth and adults.

9 God worked miraculous changes in the heart, mind and life of Saul that he might spread the gospel, grow the church and serve his neighbor as the reborn apostle Paul. Give thanks for how God calls us by name, equips us for ministry and service, and reaffirms that there is a place and purpose for everyone in the church, the body of Christ.

10 Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathered for the assemblies of the Oregon, Pacifica and Southeastern Iowa synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in doing God's work in the world, proclaiming the gospel and growing the church.

11 Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathered for the assembly of the Sierra Pacific Synod, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in doing God's work in the world, proclaiming the gospel and growing the church.

12 Pray that we will trust that Jesus is the true son of God and will be faithful and fearless in following his examples and teachings revealed to us in Scripture.

13 Remember in prayer the ELCA's work of using innovative models for starting new congregations and ministries in a diverse and changing world as we seek to grow God's church, welcome all God's people and equip our neighbors with both spiritual and physical sustenance.

14 Thank God for being a loving and ever-present shepherd who restores us, stirs our courage, strengthens our faith and guides us through the challenges and joys of life.

15 Give thanks for ELCA campus ministry, communities of faith that accompany students in their journeys of faith, education, service and discerning vocation at more than 180 state and private colleges and universities and at an additional 400 schools nationwide with assistance from congregations.



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16 Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathered for the assemblies of the Northern Great Lakes, East-Central Synod of Wisconsin, North/West Lower Michigan and Metropolitan New York synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in doing God's work in the world, proclaiming the gospel and growing the church.

17 Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathered for the assemblies of the Saint Paul Area, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast and Southeast Michigan synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in doing God's work in the world, proclaiming the gospel and growing the church.

18 Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathered for the assemblies of the Northwest Washington and Eastern Washington-Idaho synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in doing God's work in the world, proclaiming the gospel and growing the church.

19 Pray that, as the body of Christ, we encourage one another and work together to follow Jesus' words in our daily lives: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

20 Remember in prayer people who are traveling across the country in search of seasonal employment. Pray that they find employment, fair wages, fulfillment of basic needs for housing and food, and welcoming congregations that understand the unique needs of seasonal workers.

21 Give thanks for the special skills, creativity and enthusiasm of people who write blogs, online stories, social media posts and newsletters that help communicate how congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, ecumenical partners and related organizations are sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, serving our neighbor and working together for justice, peace, mercy and healing in the world.

22 Ask God to make us bold, persistent advocates and agents in society to end gun violence across our nation, for the sake of our neighbor's well-being and out of gratitude and respect for the fragile gift of life.

23 Pray that our vision of the church and its mission will be broadened by the knowledge that the word of God and the good news of Jesus Christ are meant for all people and all nations.

24 Pray that the ELCA Guardian Angel and Welcoming Congregation programs will flourish and continue to expand across our nation as part of our church's strategy to support and accompany — physically and spiritually — migrant children and families through their immigration court process.

25 Praise God's infinite power, glory and presence as reflected in our life experiences and every aspect of nature and creation.

26 Give thanks for the gift of the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, sent to remind us of Jesus' teachings and God's love, and to stir our faith, peace and courage when we are troubled or fearful.

27 Give thanks and praise God for the significant and lasting impact of Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA. Pray that we will build upon what it has accomplished and continue to be generous in supporting new and existing programs and ministries that serve our neighbor, nurture new leaders and grow the church.

28 Pray with joy and thanksgiving, for God is gracious and generous in blessing us, and God's saving power stretches to every corner of the earth.

29 Pray for more than 3,500 summer camp staff and volunteers as they prepare to serve in ELCA outdoor ministries as role models, affirming and encouraging the faith of campers — of all ages and abilities — and guiding them toward the paths and ways of God throughout life.

30 Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathered for the assemblies of the South Dakota, Nebraska, Upstate New York, Delaware-Maryland and North Carolina synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in doing God's work in the world, proclaiming the gospel and growing the church.

31 Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathered for the assemblies of the South Carolina, Southeastern, Southwest California, Southeastern Minnesota, Greater Milwaukee and West Virginia-Western Maryland synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in doing God's work in the world, proclaiming the gospel and growing the church.

Peace Lutheran Church

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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

