



Peace Lutheran Church
 Making Christ Available to All..
 by Rejoicing, Renewing and Reaching Out

Herald of Peace



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

(406) 252-5504
 peacelutheranbillings.com

Leadership Directory

Pastor: **Rev. Seth Rumage**
pastorrumage@gmail.com
 Office 406-252-5504 Cell 406-298-2672

Administrative Assistant: **Kim Braaton**
peaceoffice1301@gmail.com
 Office 406-252-5504

Youth Director: **Natalie Olson**
peacelcyouth@gmail.com
 Office 406-252-5504

Bells of Peace: Julie Draeger
 Altar Guild Treasurer: Molly Johnson
 WELCA Treasurer: Connie Hausauer

Church Council

President: Jeff Murray
 Vice President: Weyland Zeller
 Secretary: Holli Miller
 Treasurer: Steve Frank

Bob Bakko– dr.bobbakkolcpc@gmail.com
 Steve Frank– frankystorm01@msn.com
 Holli Miller– h.miller1@bresnan.net
 Jeff Murray– jeffreytmurray@yahoo.com
 Jody Pierce– bjjpiece@hotmail.com
 Holli Suek– hollybehlike@gmail.com
 Louis Taylor– ejltaylor@gmail.com
 Weyland Zeller– weyland.zeller@gmail.com

Peace Office Hours

See Schedule on page 4
 Call Ahead Before Stopping By

Weekly Worship Schedule

Saturday: 5:00 pm
In-Person and on Facebook
 Sunday: 9:00 am, 6:00 pm
Community Channel 7
 Sunday: 10:00 am
In-Person



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Pastors can be skeptics too.

I feel I need to admit to you a skepticism I felt earlier in the year and share with you how I have seen that thing I was unsure about develop into a wonderful thing.

Weekly, on Tuesday afternoons, I meet with other pastors in town for a text study. In these meetings, we talk 50% about the scripture readings we will use in worship in the upcoming weekend and 50% about ministry-resources, happenings in our congregations, how we can work together to do God's work. It was at this text study I first heard of *A Sanctified Art*. Both Atonement and Good Shepherd have used resources from that group in past years.

This is where the skepticism comes in. My initial thoughts about *A Sanctified Art* were negative; "that approach to worship sounds weird! At Peace, we have a good rotation of worship styles- I wouldn't want to mess with that. This may work for you all, but it wouldn't really work at Peace." Despite this skepticism, after hearing about this resource for over a year, I was finally willing to look it up. My first viewing of the website was not much more charitable than the thoughts I just shared, but I figured it might be worth trying. I reached out to the Worship committee and asked their thoughts and they gave me the green light to try the Lenten series, "Everything [in] Between."

After ordering the Lent series resource, I still felt skeptical. As I prepared orders of worship and put together the devotional booklet, I was unimpressed. I had envisioned a certain expectation for how the resources would lead us through Lent, and I wasn't getting what I thought I wanted.

Then Ash Wednesday came. We used the liturgy from *A Sanctified Art*. I preached a sermon that used the scriptural commentary from *A Sanctified Art*. People picked up the devotional booklets created by *A Sanctified Art*. And. It. Was. Awesome!

Prayer Concerns of those we prayed for in March

For praise and thanksgiving

Elizabeth A. Eaton – Presiding Bishop, ELCA
Laurie Jungling – Montana Synod Bishop

For people around the world in need

Peace in Ukraine
Victims of violence and war in Israel and Gaza
President Donald Trump and officials at all levels of government

For illness or injuries of members

Gertie Gross
Leroy & Luella Ketterling
Lisa Grimsley
John & Rosanne Modde
Ron Zech
Howard Albers
Jim & Geri Frasch
Hank Tungstall
Ken Peterson
Darlene Thompson
Marlene Thomson
Lawanda Sherseth
Rita Wyman
Eva Wilker
Gayle Bummer
Chuck Sider
Marlin Overstreet

PRAYER

list...

For illness or injuries of family and friends

Taryn Grinsteiner – Ken Peterson's niece
Carol – Lois Gorseth's sister, cancer treatment
Kelly Miller – Pastor Kim Wilker's daughter, cancer
Gary Boje – Darlene Thompson's brother, recovery
Denise – Bonnie Hovik Clausen's daughter in law
Garry Fink – cancer treatment
Laura Fisher – Jodi Peterson's cousin, cancer
Bud Leuthold – friend of Joy Lindberg, leukemia
John – friend of Mike Brown, health issues
Melanie – Joan Brown's sister, throat cancer
Josh Wilker – son of Kim & Terri, navigating life in prison
Kyle Welliever – son of Dean & Peggy, health concerns
Drew Echales – friend of the Ramage family, medical diagnosis
Erik Aslakson – Kathi's son, recovering from surgery
JC – John Modde's Son, lung cancer
Tommy Murphy – Nephew to Susan Andersen, Medial Reasons

P rayer 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 406-671-4030



Congregational News

Peace Quilters News!

The quilters of Peace meet each first, second, and fourth/fifth Wednesday morning at 9:00 until around noon. Anyone who is interested in joining us is welcome. If you don't know how to tie a quilt but would like to learn, with all the willing teachers we have, this is a good opportunity for you. We gather for coffee round 10:30 a.m. which is a good chance to socialize.

Peace Quilters will be hanging quilts in the fellowship hall each week to showcase their work. Please take a look to see what we're up to!



Happy Birthday to you all!
*If your birthday is incorrect or missing,
 please contact the office at
 peaceoffice1301@gmail.com
 to let us know!*

Sawyer	Miller	April 01
Erling	Barsness	April 06
Eva	Wilker	April 06
Laura	Quanbeck	April 09
Susan	Vigesaa	April 10
Kayla	Bettise	April 10
Jodi	Peterson	April 10
Kyle	Syverson	April 10
Lois	Gorseth	April 17
Barbara	Olson	April 17
Kathryn	Stanley	April 20
Joan	Brown	April 21
Louis	Taylor	April 21
Lori	Hartford	April 22
Justin	Pierce	April 23
John	Modde	April 28
Gary	Finn	April 29
Ann	Barsness	April 30
Jerald	Berve	April 30

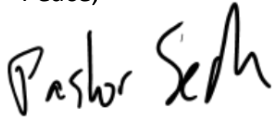
Continued from Page 1

In the weeks since, I have gotten excellent feedback from you all telling me that you have enjoyed the devotional booklet, the social media posts, the prayers during worship, the sermons, and the theme of the series. I have also gotten suggestions for ways we might tweak the resources slightly to better fit with what we are accustomed to at Peace, but even that feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

Whether or not my skepticism was warranted, your feedback has shown me that this is a good resource that Peace can add to its rotation of worship experiences. We won't use *A Sanctified Art* for every liturgical season going forward, but we will revisit it now and then going forward. We'll also look for other resources, growing in new ways to praise God in worship, fellowship, study, and outward facing ministries. We'll grow in new ways while staying rooted in Jesus' revelation of God's love through scripture and faith. We will trust that God can speak in many ways to us and through us, not just in the ways we are accustomed.

And we'll continue to let go of our skepticism together, understanding that new things may be uncomfortable at first, but have the potential to provide new perspective on this God we think we already know everything about. Thank you for hearing my confession of skepticism and for being willing to try new things with me and with each of the members of this family we call Peace .

Peace,



Peace Staff Weekly Office Hours

2025

Staff Key=

Pastor Seth

Kim Braaton

Natalie

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00 AM					
9:30 AM					
10:00 AM					
10:30 AM					
11:00 AM					
11:30 AM					
12:00 PM					
12:30 PM					
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7:00 PM					
7:30 PM					

Congregational News

Staff E-mail Addresses

Pastor Seth Ramage

pastorrumage@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant Kim Braaton

peaceoffice1301@gmail.com

Youth Director Natalie Olson

peacelcyouth@gmail.com



Peace Lutheran Financial Update

	Income	Expenses	Difference
February 2025	\$16,240.38	\$20,291.96	-4,051.58
2025 Year-To-Date	\$32,061.43	\$43,991.49	-11,930.06

Looking at the month of February and the Year-to-Date budget numbers may be concerning at the moment. However, it is important to remember many of our annual expenses occur at the beginning of the year, which is traditionally a time when giving is down due to end-of-the-year generosity. We can almost always predict that there will be a surge of giving in November and December and a lull in January and February. Council is continuing to monitor spending, and we are finding ways to faithfully support ministries both here at Peace and throughout the community.

Note, too, our new giving QR code! You'll see this pop up in our bulletins, midweek emails, and here in the newsletter. You can scan the QR code, or click on the graphic to be taken to our online giving portal.



Do you want to support Peace Electronically? Follow this QR Code to be taken to our giving portal!

facebook

Find Peace Lutheran on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/PeaceLutheranBillings>

Watch worship live or on your own time. Keep up-to-date with goings on at church. Even send a message to chat with Pastor Seth

Also check out our website at <https://www.peacelutheranbillings.com/> Find monthly newsletters and calendars, information about worship, food pantry, and youth ministries!

Easter Egg Hunt



Sunday, April 20th 10:00 AM

Christikon Benefit Auction In Person and Online



Christikon Benefit Auction – Quilts, Vacation Getaways, and a Whole Lot More will be on Sunday

April 27th at the Billings Depot. Items are some of the finest artistry including a variety of hand-made quilts, art work, gift baskets, getaways, jewelry and so much more.

Raffle Tickets on sale now! Yamaha Motorcycle! Go to <https://christikon.org/donate-to-christikon-one-time/>, choose gift: other and put raffle in the text box. Do not have to be present to win. Tickets sell for \$10 each, 3 for \$20 or 10 for \$50.

Online auction begins April 20th at noon.

Watch for the link to our auction platform on facebook at

www.facebook.com/Christikon or on our website www.Christikon.org

Like our page and share it with your friends! Watch for sneak peeks! Online auction ends on Sunday the 27th – be present and you can pick up your items at the Depot.

Campers: Don't forget to register for one of our many sessions available this summer!

How about Work Weekend? Bring your family and enjoy camp/fellowship and more while helping to prepare camp for the season! We look forward to welcoming you to camp! Go to www.christikon.org and register!

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

CHRISTIKON

1108 24th Street West • Billings, MT 59102

406 656-1969 • director@christikon.org • secretary@christikon.org • www.christikon.org



CHRISTIKON

Benefit Auction

Sunday April 27 4-7pm

Live auction begins at 5:30pm

The Billing Depot - Admission is \$25 at the door

Heavy Hors d'oeuvres provided by Basil & Bloom

Proceeds support the outdoor youth ministries of Christikon Bible Camp

Go to www.christikon.org for details

PEACE YOUTH APRIL 2025



Volunteers



We need Volunteers the following dates:

Peace Pals - 04/09,

04/23, 04/30

Peace Youth - 04/30

Van Drivers - 04/02,

04/09, 04/23, 04/30

Peace Parents - 04/24

VBS June 23rd - 27th

Volunteers can be any child who is no longer attending VBS or adults!

Volunteers will need to be available from 8am - 12:15pm on the 23rd, and from 8:15am - 12:15pm the rest of the week.

All volunteers over eighteen will need to pass a background check.

Contact

Natalie

406-252-5504 (office)

406-534-9317 (cell)

peacelcyouth@gmail.com



Christikon

This year the Peace Van will be taking three age groups to Christikon! A letter with registration instructions has been given to eligible kids. Peace will pay for one session per person. If you have not received a letter please contact Natalie. Please contact Natalie when registered to let her know if you will be using Peace transportation.

VBS

Registration is now open! Please see the youth bulletin board or Natalie to register.

Eligible children are:

-fully potty trained

-have completed one year of preschool

-oldest children are entering fifth grade

June 23rd-27th

9:00am-12:00pm

Peace Lutheran

Coming Up

Peace Pals

04/02- The Last

Supper/Jesus is betrayed

04/09 - Jesus Dies

04/16 - No Activities

04/23- The Empty Tomb

04/30 - Saul to Paul

Peace Youth

Echo the Story

04/02 - Fun Night

04/09 - Jesus Birth

04/16 - No Activities

04/23 - Baptism and Temptation

4/30 - Jesus' Followers



"An angel of the Lord descending from heaven, came...the angel said...

'Do not be afraid; I know...you are looking for Jesus...he is not here...he has been raised.'

-Matthew 28:2-6

DINNER OR DIAPERS?

FAMILIES SHOULDN'T HAVE TO CHOOSE

DIAPER DRIVE 2025

Help families grow



UNITED WAY
of Yellowstone
County



Bring diapers, Pull-Ups, and Wipes
to Peace Lutheran on the weekends of
April 26 & 27, and May 3 & 4.

Most Needed Sizes are 4, 5, & 6

Did you know?

- 1 in 2 families struggles with diaper need-
- Diapers aren't covered by SNAP or WIC-
- Fresh diapers help children stay healthy-
- A \$1 donation helps us buy 3x more diapers!-

Thank you for helping our neighbors in need!



Directory Corrections and Updates

Please update the following entries in your
Peace Membership Directory:

MaryAnn & Ron Conboy

2507 Clark Avenue

Billings, MT 59102

ronaldma23@aol.com

(406) 656-1681 (MaryAnn Mobile)

(406) 794-2669 (Ron Mobile)



Community Poverty Simulation | Friday May 2, 2025

9:00 am – 12:00 pm | United Way of Yellowstone County

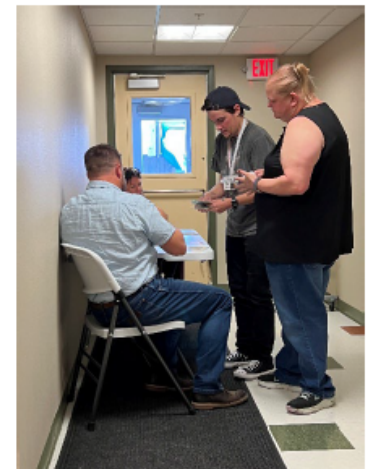
The Shoes of Our Neighbors

Join us for an immersive Community Poverty Simulation, where participants experience the difficult decisions and challenges that individuals and families facing financial hardship navigate every day.

This interactive event is designed to build empathy, challenge assumptions, and inspire action by providing a glimpse into the realities of financial instability.

How It Works:

- Participants are assigned a real-life scenario of someone facing financial hardship.
- Community partner agencies will serve as key resources—banks, employers, schools, health centers, and more.
- Over four 13-minute sessions (representing four weeks), participants must navigate daily life—finding employment, paying bills, caring for family, and accessing vital services.
- A guided debrief will follow, fostering meaningful discussion and collaborative action.



Why Participate?

- Gain a new perspective on the struggles faced by many in our community.
- Engage with local organizations working to address the needs of neighbors.
- Learn how you can take action to make a difference.

This event is open to all community members. Whether you are a business leader, nonprofit professional, student, or concerned citizen, your participation matters!

What past participants say...

“I was surprised at how angry I was... I was like whoa, I bet if this was something in real life, it would be unimaginably difficult.”

“Just eye opening...”

Register Today!

Scan or click
the QR Code



For more information, contact Maia @
mdickerson@uwyellowstone.org | 406.272.8506

2025 Lent and Holy Week Schedule



Ash Wednesday ~ March 5
Soup Supper ~ 6:00 PM
Worship ~ 7:00 PM

Lent Wednesday Evenings
March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9
Soup Supper ~ 6:00 PM
Worship ~ 7:00 PM

Weekend Worships
Saturday Evenings ~ 5:00 PM
Sunday Mornings ~ 10:00 AM

HOLY
WEEK



Palm Weekend
April 13 & 14

Saturday ~ 5:00 PM
Sunday ~ 10:00 AM

Maundy Thursday
April 17

Potluck Dinner Church
6:00PM

Good Friday
April 18

Worship ~ 7:00 PM
with First Presbyterian

EASTER SUNDAY
April 20

SONrise Service ~ 7:00 AM

Traditional Worship ~ 9:00, 10:30 AM

Worship News

April 5 & 6 *Everything [in] Between Righteousness & Mercy*

The crowds grumble at Jesus' self-invitation to stay with Zacchaeus, and their righteous indignation isn't without cause. As a tax collector, Zacchaeus has extorted money and acted in collusion with the empire, using his position to oppress his own people. It is important to call out oppression, and yet, Jesus offers mercy. That mercy then begets more mercy as Zacchaeus, unprompted, offers to return what he took, and then some.

Luke 19:1-10

April 12 & 13 (Palm Sunday) *Everything [in] Between Shouting & Silence*

Jesus doesn't instigate his own parade. Instead, just his quiet presence alone inspires the multitude to shout out and praise God. When the religious leaders try to silence the crowd, Jesus tells them that the noise level isn't the point—even the stones would cry out if they were silent. It takes wisdom to know when our voice is needed and when it's just noise.

Luke 19:29-40

April 17 (Maundy Thursday) *Everything [in] Between Power & Humility*

In his final hours, Jesus redefines power through acts of humility, including sharing a final meal with his closest friends and those who will soon betray him. After breaking bread, the disciples argue about who is the greatest, but Jesus tells them that the greatest must be the least and the leader must be the servant, turning their hierarchy on its head. According to Jesus, humility is powerful, and real power is shown through humility.

Luke 22:1-27

April 18 (Good Friday) *Everything [in] Between Acceptance & Resistance*

As Jesus dies on the cross, one thief resists him and the other accepts him as Messiah. Jesus resists the empire but accepts his fate. We also are called to resist systems of power and oppression, and yet we ultimately have to accept that Jesus dies—and one day we will too. We have to discern what to accept as given and what to resist, what is "God's will," and what is the result of our own unquestioned systems.

Luke 23:32-49

April 20 (Easter) *Everything [in] Between Grief & Hope*

Grief is a healthy response to Jesus' death and a valid way to enter worship on Easter morning. And yet, the women at the empty tomb are given hope amidst their mourning. The other disciples don't believe the women's message, but Peter, living in the in-between of grief and hope, runs to the tomb to see for himself. Grieving doesn't have to make us hopeless. Hope can compel us to take action when we are deep in grief.

Luke 24:1-12

April 26 & 27

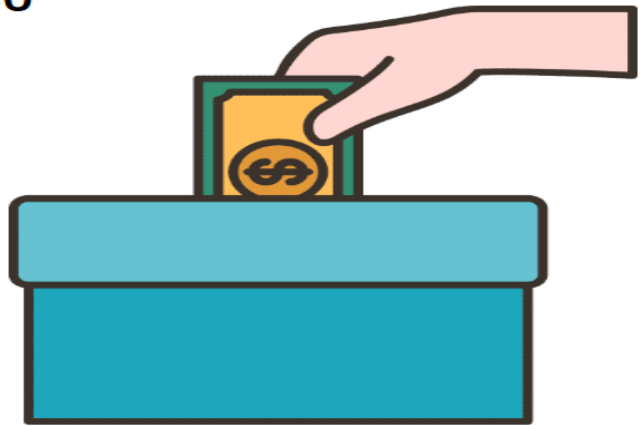
In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

LENT SPECIAL OFFERINGS

During the season of Lent, our Soup Supper and Wednesday Evening Worship Offerings will go to these excellent Ministries!

- Ash Wednesday, March 5- Christikon Scholarships: **\$661**
- March 12- Lutheran Disaster Response (California Wilfires): **\$252**
- March 19- SONshine House: **\$ 130**
- March 26- Peace Food Pantry
- April 2- Luther's Lodge
- April 9- Family Promise



Announcing a new project from the Congregational Life Committee....

PEOPLE OF PEACE

As Peace grows, we want to help people get to know each other. Whether you just joined the church or have been worshipping here for years, we can all learn more about who we are!

If you are interested in having a profile made of you and/or your family, reach out to Pastor Seth at pastorrumage@gmail.com. He will send you instructions and a questionnaire!

THE RUMAGES

**KATRINA
SETH
ARIELLA
NATHANAE**

Seth is Peace's Pastor. Katrina serves on the Education/Youth & Family Ministry Committee and facilitates Peace Parents activities. Ariella and Nathanael keep the congregation energized and feeling young.

Who is your favorite author? Why?
Seth- Stephen King; I like the twists and turns that King stories take, never really knowing how things will end up.
What five words describe you?
Nathanael- Cute, Silly, Energetic, Daddy's Boy, and Clever
What is your professional vocation? Where do/did you work?
Katrina began working at St. John's United in Moorberg on Langame cottages in February 2025, after five years of being a stay-at-home mom. She is a "Life Enrichment Specialist," keeping the residents' minds and bodies engaged through activities and events.
If you could live in a book, TV show, or movie, what would it be? Why?
Ariella would live in the Frozen story. She would want to play with Olaf the snowman and explore with Anna, Elsa, Kristoff, and Sven.



Completed profiles will be shared in each midweek newsletter, and will be posted on the wall in the upstairs hallway. We will begin sharing and posting in May!

Congregational News



Women of the ELCA Circles:
Everyone is welcome!

Ruth Circle

Meets second Tuesday at 11:30 a.m.
Pizza Hut 2530 King Ave W

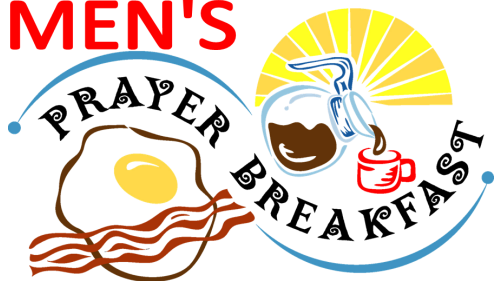
Katie Circle

Meets second Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in
the Fellowship Hall

Martha Circle

Meets third Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the
Fellowship Hall

MEN'S



Men's Breakfast and Bible Study meets
Wednesdays at 6:30 am in the
Fellowship Hall.

New-comers and one-timers are
always welcome.

Bring yourself and your appetite—
food and Bible study resources will be
provided!



Next Newsletter Deadline:

April 24th, 2025

Please send newsletter information to
peaceoffice1301@gmail.com

Delegates to Ministries

Christikon

Katrina Rumage
Tony Pecarina
Kristi Bummer

Endowment Trustees

Kristi Bummer
Dave Draeger
Greg Popp
Chuck Sider
Melissa Sider

Lutheran Center

Pastor Seth Rumage*
Jeff Murray*

Shepherd Cluster

Dave Draeger
Julie Draeger

St. John's Ministries

Mary Mosdal
Jerilyn Dukart

Synod Assembly Delegates

Louis Taylor*
Nancy Taylor

†Designates Committee Chair

*Designates Congregation
Council Member

Congregational Committees

Abundant Life

Bob Bakko*
Mike Brown
Jeff Murray*
Bob Peterson†
Danny Quanbeck
Rhonda Sappington

Congregational Life

Joan Brown
Molly Johnson
Holli Miller†*
Jeff Murray*
Deb Sider
Melissa Sider

Education/Youth

Jan Bakko
John Goodheart
Jody Pierce*
Katrina Rumage
Melissa Sider
Holly Suek*

Mission and Service

Ann & Erl Barsness
Paula Jackson
Rick & Barb Olson
Linda Strosky

Mutual Ministry

Mike Brown
Holli Miller*
Bob Peterson
Sharon Schatzke
Chuck Sider

Nominating

Rhonda Sappington
Geroge Simek
Peggy Welliever
(2 slots will be filled by outgoing
council members in November
2025)

Personnel

Bob Bakko*
Melissa Sider

Property

Jeff Murray†*
Paul Strosky
Louis Taylor*

Scholarship

Wendy Goodheart
Holli Miller*
Melissa Sider

Worship

Ann Barsness
Julie Draeger
Wendy Goodheart

April Serving Committee

Joan Brown, Chair
Mike Brown
Connie Mantei
Barb & Jim Shaver
Kristi Bummer
Barb & Rick Olson
Mary Mosdal
Taryn Hauglie



PRAYER VENTURES

April

1 Pray for lasting peace between nations and for the healing of people who suffer conflict, war and violence, especially in Ukraine, Russia, Gaza, Israel, Syria, Haiti, Myanmar and regions of Africa.

2 Arab American Heritage Month Give thanks for the contributions and impact of Arab Americans in every aspect of society, including religion, education, science, business, government and the arts. Ask God to bless and further the work of ELCA Arab and Middle Eastern Ministries and the Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage.

3 “You have come down to the lakeshore seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy, but only asking for me to follow” (WOV 784). Praise God for seeking us out and, despite our imperfection, making us humble disciples, equipped and inspired by the Spirit.

4 Pray for church leaders, liturgists, scholars and scientists gathering to discuss including the Feast of Creation Day in liturgical calendars, an effort organized by the Roman Catholic Church in partnership with the Lutheran World Federation, World Council of Churches, World Methodist Council, Anglican Communion and World Communion of Reformed Churches. Ask the Spirit to guide their study and discussion of climate justice, the Nicene Creed, the role of the Holy Trinity in creation, and how Christians engage with the creation story.

5 Remember in prayer worship leaders and musicians participating in the ecumenical Music that Makes Community workshop in Waco, Texas, a day of building community through singing, learning and fellowship.

6 Pray for a spirit of humble generosity that recognizes and encourages the diverse gifts and contributions of our siblings in Christ, who give as they are able and are inspired by their gratitude towards and love for God.

7 Praise the Creator for the new life of an emerging spring, which inspires our joy, awe and hope.

8 There are about 390,000 people in foster care in our country, ranging from infants to young adults. Pray that these young people will experience love, understanding, security and encouragement in their foster families. Give thanks for foster parents and remember those young adults who, aging out of foster care, may face new uncertainties.

9 Seek God’s forgiveness and mercy for the times when we have hurt, offended or demeaned others, intentionally or unintentionally. Pray for the Spirit to grant us humility, penitent hearts and a compassion that stirs us to make amends and heal broken relationships.

10 Lift up in prayer farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers. Give thanks for their efforts to feed the world and care for creation, and pray for abundant harvests.

11 Give thanks that God is always doing something new in and through us, wonderful things that impact others when they witness Christ’s awesome love reflected in our lives as disciples.

12 Pray for youth in our congregations and communities, recognizing the challenges they face, celebrating the joys they experience and showing gratitude for what they add to our faith communities, which need the gifts of all generations to do God’s work in the world.

13 Palm Sunday Pray that we might accompany Jesus in his journey of persecution, suffering, death and resurrection, a journey of love and sacrifice for our sake.

14 Pledge to bear hope, grace and newness in Christ to our neighbors in need, especially those who are poor, hungry, sick, imprisoned, unemployed or plagued by war or domestic conflict.

15 Praise God for the strength we draw from Scripture, from our siblings in Christ, from living in community and from the tireless work of the ever present Spirit.

16 Pray to the Lord for comfort, strength and renewed faith when you feel broken and worn-out



PRAYER VENTURES

April

17 Maunday Thursday Today we end our observation of Lent and shift our attention to what God has done for the world through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, son of God and son of humankind. Give thanks for the gift of new life in Christ, a life wrapped in God's boundless grace.

18 Good Friday "Start being brave about everything. Drive out darkness and spread light. Don't look at your weaknesses. Realize instead that in Christ crucified you can do everything" (Catherine of Siena, 1347-1380). Pray for the Spirit to strengthen our faith so that, through us, God's love and mercy might shine brightly in the world.

19 Ask the Spirit for a faith that is certain and resilient, even when we don't fully understand or appreciate what God has done for humanity through Jesus Christ.

20 Easter Day Sing praise and thanksgiving to God! This is the day the Lord has made for us to gather as loved and forgiven children, celebrating our freedom from the bondage of sin and death.

21 When you reflect on who might need your presence, comfort and reassuring words of love and hope, who comes to mind? Include them in your prayers and reach out to them.

22 Give thanks and pray for directors for evangelical mission, who serve in partnership with ELCA church-wide ministries and synods, helping them to found "new start" ministries, renew congregations, nurture stewardship, and identify, develop and equip leaders for ministry.

23 Every day, Jesus walks with us, sharing good news and wisdom just as he did with Cleopas and his companion on the road to Emmaus. Pray that the Spirit will help us express that good news and wisdom in our conversations with our neighbors.

24 "We are not fed by only doing one way of ministry. Instead it is about seeing the face of God in every person who walks through the door, about embracing the inherent dignity of every individual, regardless of their circumstances"

(the Rev. Esther K. Sianipar, "Serving With Shobi's Table: A Reflection," shobistable.org). Pray for our neighbors who suffer hunger, lack reliable access to nutritious food and yearn for the support of caring communities, and thank God for our congregational, synodical and churchwide ministries that serve them without bias or judgment

25 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Alaska Synod, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod and Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

26 Thank God for the spiritual nourishment we receive when we gather around the table to celebrate communion, and for the Triune God, who calls and equips us to do God's work in the world.

27 Like the apostle Thomas, we all experience moments of doubt and disbelief. Pray that God will be patient and forgiving with us, rekindling our trust in a Spirit that helps us when our faith weakens.

28 Thank God for volunteers who respond to the needs of the church and society by sharing their time, gifts and passion. Pray that we will extend to people of all ages the invitation to serve God.

29 Pray for those who suffer the trauma of gun violence in their communities and elsewhere. Ask for wisdom in responding to our stricken neighbors, for guidance in working to ending gun violence and for fearless respect for human life — a precious gift from God, our creator.

30 Again, we rejoice and shout, "Hallelujah! The Lord, our savior, is risen!" The good news and power of Easter that we experience cannot be confined to a single calendar day

Peace Lutheran Church

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

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