

Lent



For the last two-thousand years, Lent has been a time of reflection and Bible study. Continuing in that tradition, each week Peace is pairing a reading from the Gospel of Mark with a reading from Brené Brown's, *Daring Greatly*, a #1 *New York Times* bestseller. Researcher, speaker and author Brené Brown studies the topics of vulnerability, shame, worthiness and courage, and her message has become a cultural phenomenon in the United States and around the world. Many congregations have experienced healing and empowerment while studying her book alongside scripture. Her message sheds a contemporary light on the walk Jesus takes to the cross and the life He calls us to live. This combined Bible and book study is meant for people in all stages of life, to share stories and discuss with one another the experiences that bring meaning to our lives as Christians during this time of Lent and beyond. Here is an excerpt of Brown's writing:

"Every day we experience the uncertainty, risks, and emotional exposure that define what it means to be vulnerable, or to dare greatly...In a world where "never enough" dominates and feeling afraid has become second nature, vulnerability is subversive, uncomfortable, and even a little dangerous sometimes. Without question, putting ourselves out there invites a far greater risk of being criticized or feeling hurt. But when we shut ourselves off from vulnerability, we distance ourselves from the experiences that bring purpose and meaning to our lives, and that nothing is as dangerous, uncomfortable or hurtful as standing on the outside looking in and wondering what it would be like if we had the courage to step into the arena."

Small Groups

Consider joining a small group! *Daring Greatly* books are available for \$15 each Sunday morning (at the information desk) or Wednesday night (in the office) until February 10. Feel free to also stop by the church during weekly office hours.

Wednesday Evenings

February 17, 24
March 2, 9, 16, 23

Schedule
5:15-6:15 Dinner
6:30-7:00 Worship —
interactive and contemplative
study of the Gospel of Mark
7:00-7:45 Small groups
7:45-8:45 Choir and Bells
Rehearsal

Sunday Mornings

February 14, 21, 28
March 6, 13, 20

The pastors will use *Daring Greatly* readings as a lens to interpret and enliven the readings from the Gospel of Mark.

COUNCIL COLUMN

Notes from the January 12 meeting:

The Building Use Task Force joined council and their mission was clarified: to determine how the building could be used or rented to further the mission of Peace. The 2016 Budget was approved. Because of lack of volunteers Families Moving Forward has been placed on hold for 2016. The Parish Nurse hours have been increased from 12-14 hours/week. For continuing education, Pastor Kjell is joining a Macedonian Ministry cohort focusing on spirituality, leadership and renewal; part of the three year commitment is a peaching field study in the Holy Land. Committee Reports were accepted. The council adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Full, approved minutes can be found in the meeting minute binder in the church office.

*Respectfully submitted,
Dave Forsberg*

Peace Notes

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Peace Notes is a monthly newsletter for members and friends of Peace Lutheran Church of Plymouth. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month prior to publication.

Lead Pastor
Life Long Faith Formation
Director of Volunteer Ministries
Parish Nurse
Communications Specialist
Minister of Music
Choir Director

Rev. Kjell Ferris
Rev. Emily Meyer
Judy Lubben
Sondra Weinzierl
Laura Castle
Steve Peters
Greg Barnes

Connect-the-Dots™: What's happened so far?

Why connect faith & science at church? What can we learn about the environment from the creation stories in Genesis? Peace Lutheran members of all ages gathered to answer questions like these during *Step 1* of Connect-the-Dots™. Each team built a sculpture as a reminder that God made everything, God calls us to care for creation and Jesus shows us to care for our neighbors.

How are people a part of earth's shared systems of land, water, air, and living things? Science tells us how these systems continually connect. As children of God working towards environmental stewardship, people of Peace explored how and where these systems and connections are at work in our church building and daily lives. For *Step 2*, groups of Peace members searched the church looking for energy and water savings and also areas that need attention.

How can we care for creation through our choices in energy and water use? *Step 3* of Connect-the-Dots™ focused on earth's changing climate. It was cold outside during this particular Sunday morning, but candles and hopeful discussions and activities kept members of Peace warm in the fellowship hall.

What does vocation mean for us as Christians? How can we use our gifts and strengths to meet the needs of the world? Engineering is one way to address needs and solve problems. Together the group on this Wednesday night used gifts like creativity, risk-taking, math skills, listening, leadership and humor to try out an engineering design challenge for *Step 4*.

For Steps 5 and 6 of Connect-the-Dots™, youth from Peace Lutheran are being asked to lead this congregation in changes that nurture God's creation. They are exploring projects that keep pollution out of nature, save money on the electric bill and teach people about creation care. The project stories from Peace, as well as the other 10 churches piloting this project, will be captured on video and shared with the Minneapolis Area Synod.



PARISH NURSE NEWS

Experiment 3: Revitalize Peaceful Nights through clarity of all age programing and involve youth in assisting in worship.

HOT SHEET

FEBRUARY

What's hot and happenin' at Peace?



Ash Wednesday Worship

Wednesday, February 10, 6:30PM

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a worship service with the imposition of ashes and a chance to freely confess our imperfections, knowing that the end of Lent is marked by the Easter celebration! This evening worship is a meaningful way to mark the beginning of your Lenten journey.

Building Use Task Force

Council has formed a Building Use Task Force including: Mike Mostrom, Valerie Sorenson, David Forsberg and Pastor Kjell. They have been asked by council to investigate, compare and bring recommendations concerning how we could better or more fully use the space in our building with consideration to both increased mission and additional income. You can pass along your ideas to anyone on the task force. The group will report back at the March council meeting.

A Note from Ilene...

"Thanks to everyone who made my 90th birthday so memorable!"

Planning Meeting for Spring Rummage & Bake Sale

Sunday, March 13, 10:00AM

Join the Social Action Committee in the Fireside Room for a planning meeting. This year's Rummage Sale Days are April 28-30. We look forward to hearing your thoughts while enjoying coffee and a bagel!

March Blood Drive

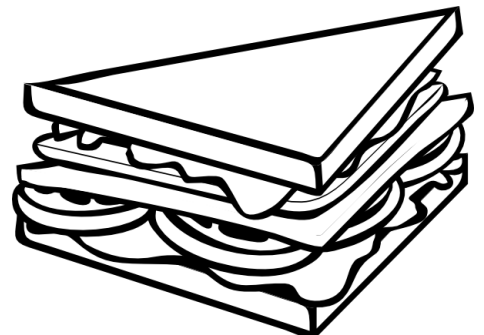
Thanks to those who donated blood at January's drive. Please put March 30th on your calendars for our next drive! The Social Action team would like to encourage youth to become involved. Starting at age 16, you can donate with a parent's permission/signature, and once you are 17 or older you can donate for the rest of your life, pending you meet the physical (height/weight) criteria and other regulations. Contact Pam Jette with questions: 612.986.5898 or pamjette@hotmail.com.

Sandwich Making Extravaganza!

Sunday, February 21, 10:00AM

As a church we will make over 1,000 sandwiches to donate to Allan Law, known as the "Sandwich Man", who drives throughout the Twin Cities serving people in urgent need in homeless shelters and on the streets. Making as many as 50 stops a night, he distributes donated sandwiches to those in need—and relies on volunteers to provide these sandwiches. Allan says, "I don't have to do it, I could quit right now, but I never will quit, ever, as long as I'm alive."

Let's do what we can to help him with this important ministry!



Collaborate & Celebrate Worship

February 28 | 6:00-8:00PM | Augsburg College Chapel

All 10 churches that are participating in the Connect-the-Dots™ program will gather for worship, share project videos, participate in activities and celebrate together the ways in which they will continue to be stewards of God's creation. All ages are invited!



Mark your calendars for Day Camp at Peace!

June 13-17, 2016

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