



Tov is Hebrew for “good” and we encounter tov in the beginning, in the poetry of the Bible’s first creation story. When trees grow, produce fruit and seeds, and those seeds are put into the soil (a dying of sorts) to produce more trees, fruit and seeds, God calls this tov. Creation is a dynamic process of becoming.

Tov grows and breathes and curves. Tov isn’t perfection—perfection is a straight line to an end. We learn in the creation stories that this ever evolving creation isn’t once and done, it continues to happen and we participate in it. The water, air, land, and living things are around us and in us. Creation is messy; it meanders, moves, grows and cycles. And God says, “It is tov.”

Jesus invites us into this messy process of creation as we experience creativity in our personal lives and as a congregation. Being part of this living, breathing, creative process of becoming defines what it means to be a gathering of Jesus’ people—a congregation. Peace Lutheran is part of this dynamic process of fulfilling God’s mission in the world. The top three priorities that Peace identified last fall in the CAT (Church Assessment Tool) were used during the congregational planning meeting in January to focus our participation in God’s mission for the world. By turning these priorities into questions, every member, committee, ministry group, staff and council persons are able to focus our participation in God’s mission.

- 1) How might we...welcome families with children and youth?**
- 2) How might we...reach new people and incorporate them into the life of Peace?**
- 3) How might we...deepen our connection to God and one another through strong worship?**

These are good questions. They don’t have predetermined answers. We don’t know what it’s going to look like for us to live these out. We may have some ideas, but we do not know, and not knowing is scary. Not knowing is vulnerable. Not knowing is messy. It is... a death of sorts. It is the very process that God called tov again and again, and when all creation is working together God says, “it is very tov.” Together, Jesus is calling us to live for each other; working together for the sake of the world. Together is how we move forward into God’s future.

COUNCIL COLUMN

Notes from the February 9, 2016 Council Meeting: The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. After devotions by Pastor Kjell, the January minutes were approved. The meeting focused on 2016 planning for Peace and the Council, including a review of the mission and vision statements, and a review of the January 23, 2016 Congregational planning meeting. The Council decided to focus on three primary objectives: (1) Isaiah 55:10-11—how to use God's gifts to accomplish God's purposes; (2) meeting the 3 priorities identified in the CAT (3) later in the year, identify a process involving congregational participation to consider revisions to the mission and vision statements. Chris Bacon reviewed the Treasurer's report and committee reports were received. The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:40 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Dave Swanson, Secretary*

ISAIAH 55: 10-11

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.



Peace Lutheran Church's 20th ANNUAL

Rummage & Bake Sale

Peace will be celebrating its 20th Annual Rummage & Bake Sale this spring. Wow, what an accomplishment! It is such a fun event and ALL of the proceeds go to local non-profits. So, as we are in the midst of winter, dreaming of a warm spring to come, it's the perfect time to clean out your closets and basement and put those gently used, no-longer-needed treasures aside for the sale! Large item pick up will be available for items that are too big for you to transport to Peace. The sale will be open to Peace members on Wednesday, April 27 during Peaceful nights. This year, our high school youth will be serving the meal that night and the proceeds will help fund their summer trip. This event continues to be successful each year because of all the people who donate their time—please watch for volunteer sign ups and more details to come as April approaches. Questions? Ask a member of the Social Action Committee: Deb Weir, Evonne Carlson, Carolyn Stark, David Kleppe and Pam Jette.

SCHEDULE:

March 13, 10:00AM: Kick-off Planning Meeting (Fireside room with bagels, juice and coffee). | **April 23, 9:00AM-3:00PM:** Rummage Sale Donation drop off/ pick up begins | **April 24, 11:00AM-4:00PM:** drop off/pick up | **April 25, 8:00AM-8:00PM:** donation drop off | **April 26, 8:00AM-8:00PM:** last day for donation drop off | **April 27, 5:00PM-8:00PM:** Sale Opens! | **April 28, 8:00AM-6:00PM:** Sale Hours | **April 29, 8:00AM-6:00PM:** Sale Hours | **April 30, 8:00AM-Noon:** Sale Hours

Sandwich Making Extravaganza!

1,008 sandwiches were made for hungry people around the Twin Cities. Thanks to all who participated in this ministry!



PARISH NURSE NEWS

This month brings a lot of exciting news for Health Ministry! First, of course, is the Health Fair on Sunday, March 6th. Hopefully you've already RSVP'd on the poster in the narthex at Peace; called the church office at 763-478-9406 or emailed sondra@peaceofplymouth.org. One of Peace's goals for 2016 is to incorporate new people into the church. This is a great opportunity to do so! Invite your friends and neighbors to join you at the health fair—there is no charge but we do need their RSVP so we know how much lunch to prepare. There will be a free will offering for lunch and a mission project.

In other news, our Congregational Care team is growing! Martha Knutson has resigned from the team and I thank her for her service these last two years. I continue to be thankful for Jeanette Colligan, who sends out cards to our homebound members and others on a monthly basis for our Barnabas ministry. Gratitude also goes out to all the wonderful knitters who keep us supplied with prayer shawls. In addition, Grace Tauring regularly visits and takes communion (and great joy!) to two of our homebound members. Joining the team are Anne Weir, who will help us keep in touch with our seniors and Scott Rusten and Olive, his Collie/English Shepherd therapy dog. They will visit members who would benefit from a pet therapy visit. Scott and Olive completed training through Pet Partners and make visits at Methodist Hospital as well. Please remember that our congregational care team respects the confidentiality of the persons they visit, so they may not be able to share details of their visits with others.

God asks us to care for each other and to love our neighbors as ourselves. The Congregational Care ministry is one way we try to do that...but everyone at Peace can help by sharing the love and light of Jesus Christ with everyone we encounter!

See you at the Health Fair,

Sondra

*In
Loving
Memory
of*

**RICHARD
THORSEN**

January 5, 1926 –

January 26, 2016

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”



**Memorial
BLOOD CENTERS**

Spring Blood Drive

*Wednesday, March 30
3:30PM - 6:30PM*

See a member of the
Social Action Committee
to sign up before or after
church on Sunday
mornings at the
information desk.
Call Pam Jette with
Questions at: 612.986.5898.

*Pictured: the newest members of the Congregational
Care team: Anne Weir, Scott Rusten and Olive*



HOT SHEET

MARCH

What's hot and happenin' at Peace?

Bible Studies



New Bible Study Series

Wednesdays, 6:00PM

April 6 - May 11

Adults, youth & confirmation are invited to join Pastor Emily Meyer for a six-week series delving into the question: “*Where did the Bible come from?*”. Each week will focus on a part of biblical history and the people who were involved in this formational and translational process. There will be plenty of space to ask the “why” questions that many of us have. Look for a sign-up on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings starting mid-March.

Week 1, April 6: *Old Testament origins*

Week 2, April 13: *Authors of the New Testament*

Week 3, April 20: *The Bible's “canonization”*

Week 4, April 27: *Vulgate to Luther translations*

Week 5, May 4: *Good, Bad & Ugly of King James*

Week 6, May 11: *Where are we now?*

First Communion Class

Sunday, March 13, 10:00AM

This class is open to all ages; parents are encouraged to determine if their child(ren) are ready to receive Communion. We will follow in the tradition of sharing First Communion during Maundy Thursday worship (March 24, 6:30 PM), the night Jesus commanded the disciples to share this meal with one another. We will learn what it means to eat and drink “in remembrance of Jesus” through this interactive study for parents and children.

summer CAMP

Peace Day Camp | June 13-17

Save the Date — Registration coming soon!
Camp is open to children age 3 - 5th grade.

Spring Forums: Emerging Theologies

Sundays, 10:00AM: April 10, May 1, May 8

Michael Sorenson will be leading an intriguing study on what are called “Emerging Theologies”— ideas about God, offered by people traditionally under-represented in academia. What was previously a white-men-only think tank has expanded by leaps and bounds. All ages are invited to explore these areas!

Part 1, April 10: *Eco-Justice*

Part 2, May 1: *Liberation Theologies*

Part 3, May 8: *Feminist Theologies*



“Green & Clean @ Peace”

Sunday, April 17, 10:00AM

The last phase of the “Connect-the-Dots” curriculum that the youth participated in for several weeks prior to Lent emphasized engaging the congregation in environmental awareness and stewardship practices. Our young people opted to choose not just one but SEVERAL projects - resulting in a giant environmental fair! Invite your neighbors and friends to worship and then browse numerous interactive booths offering ideas about how we as individuals and as a congregation can live a more sustainable life by being better stewards of God's good gifts, in big and little ways.

MN FoodShare March Campaign

For the past 30 years, Minnesota FoodShare (sponsored by the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches) has had a unique focus—the March Campaign is the only statewide food and fund drive that raises more than half the food distributed by 300 food shelves. Peace will once again join this endeavor and all food and funds raised will go directly to the IOCP (Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners) food shelf. Let's help IOCP reach their goal of collecting 100,000 pounds of food this month by putting some extra groceries into our carts when we're shopping! There will be a drop-off space in the gathering space at Peace. If it is easier for you to write a check, you can put it in the offering plate. Please make checks out to Peace Lutheran Church with a note in the memo line “IOCP/Prevent Hunger March Campaign”.