



Peace Notes

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH, MINNESOTA

Volume 25, Issue 8 | August 2020

the 7 Faith Practices



Practicing our faith isn't a one day a week commitment by attending church on Sundays. In this series we will learn a bit about these seven ancient practices, and you will be encouraged to try these practices yourself. Through this series you may find ways to stretch yourself a bit, or ideas to integrate new ideas and experiences into your everyday life.

Prayer -- Oriented toward God

Romans 8: 22-27, with Grace Pardun Alworth, July 26

Food -- Eating with Jesus

Romans 14: 6-9, with Pastor Kjell Ferris, August 2

Worship -- Seeking God's Presence

Matthew 11: 28-30, August 9

Sacraments -- A Tapestry of Traditions

Hebrews 4: 14-16, with Grace Pardun Alworth, August 16

Money -- The Joy of Sharing

Matthew 6: 25-27, with Pastor Lee Yarger, August 23

Service -- The Needs Right Around You

Phillipians 2: 1-8, with Pastor Kjell Ferris, August 30

Community -- An Unexpected Family

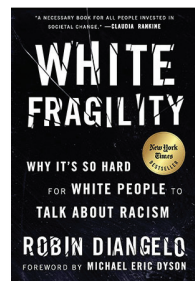
Romans 12: 4-8, with Melissa Weinhandl, September 6

Book Study -

White Fragility:

Why it's So Hard for
White People to Talk about Racism

Learn more on page 2



Robin DiAngelo

We are in this together and look forward to seeing you online.
Please watch for emails and updates about future events and activities.

Book Study -

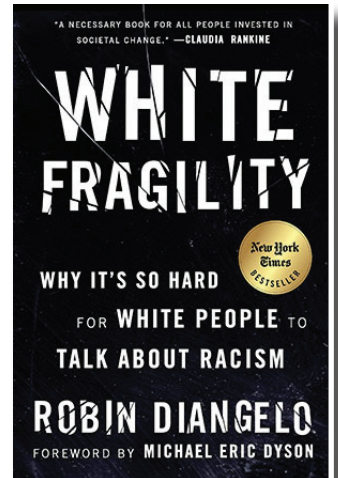
“White Fragility: Why it’s So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism”



Robin DiAngelo

“What can I DO??” Perhaps these words have echoed through your mind over the past few weeks. Just a few months ago life as we knew it ground to a halt, and some people had less to do than ‘normal.’ And now, after the death of George Floyd and many other black people, we are collectively examining the role that race plays in our society. I have often wondered, “but what can I do? What can the church do?”

There are many ways to answer this question, and here is one direction that the people of Peace Lutheran are focusing some energy. We have started a study on racial equity by reading the book “White Fragility” together. Written by Robin DiAngelo in 2018, she describes the term white fragility as “a state in which even a minimum amount of racial stress becomes intolerable, triggering a range of defensive moves. These moves include the outward display of emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and behaviors such as argumentation, silence, and leaving the stress-inducing situation. These behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium. This



book explicates the dynamics of White Fragility and how we might build our capacity in the ongoing work towards racial justice.”

To be sure, reading this book will challenge each of us, regardless of the color of our skin. We hope that by reading it together, we can create an environment where we can have thoughtful, nuanced conversations and discover ways that Peace Lutheran can pitch in to work for racial equity and justice.

If you want to participate, please contact Stefanie Fiser Kleven: stefanie@peaceofplymouth.org

Confirmation Prairie Garden Project

By Avy Weinhandl and Sylvie Leppa

This year, the confirmation students are creating a prairie garden to help the environment. It will help educate the students in the school about the importance of the environment. It will help pollinate the Peace garden which will help IOCP.

We are planting in front of the wetland, on the right side, to help protect the wetlands from the polluted parking lot. This helps the wetland. Also, it will not pollute the grass and dirt leading to a lake or pond. We are helping the area because it has dry dirt and rocks everywhere because of the shed that was previously there and was removed. We are also helping the area so plants don't grow everywhere. We are planting on August 2nd and we are all looking forward to that day.

It will be named the Sam Garden because we found a baby bird that had died on the ground and we named it Sam and decided in honor of the bird, we would put our garden there. And we buried him in a safer place.

Stay awake.

By ELCA Minneapolis Synod Bishop Ann Svennungsen

At the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus asks the disciples to keep watch with him; to stay awake. In describing the life of discipleship, Jesus says, “Be alert. Many will try to lead you astray. Do not be distracted. Keep awake.” Today, after the murder of George Floyd, we think nothing could distract us from our call to dismantle the sin of systemic racism. How could we be distracted? After reflecting on the horror and evil of racism so entwined with our nation’s history, we think we will never forget. But, how quickly we do.

MUCH HAS BEEN WRITTEN about our shortened attention span in the digital age. One article caught my eye. Three behaviors are key to the discipline of staying attentive:

1. Set goals
2. Get together with others
3. Get out of your chair

Today might be the perfect day to set our anti-racist action goals for the coming year. What actions will we take? What books will we read? What legislation will we seek? What consumer habits might we change?

Today is also a good day to commit to relationships. Getting together with others is key to finding both support and accountability for paying attention. Finally, getting out of your chair improves blood flow and circulation, making the brain more attentive and engaged.

At Gethsemane, Jesus tells the disciples, “Stay awake.” They don’t. It is only Jesus who stays awake, that night. And then, when the powers of evil finally put Jesus to sleep, there’s still One who stays awake. Almighty God, raises the Beloved – out of love for the world.

It’s that resurrection power that Jesus breathes into the disciples. It’s that Spirit – the Spirit of the risen Christ – that fills them at Pentecost. We aren’t on our own in this anti-racism work. We’re blessed with power beyond our imaginations. Power enough to raise us up and keep us moving.



Bishop Ann Svennungsen

THANK YOU!

We would like to offer up a huge shout out of thanks to **Pam Johnson** and **Jack Bacon** for the work they have done at Peace while the building has been closed to activities. Pam single handedly cleaned and sterilized the kitchen and organized every drawer and cupboard. She cleaned up the coffee bar and stored items so they wouldn’t gather dust. The Sacristy also received tender loving care from Pam. When we return and are able to use these spaces, we know that everything is ready to go!

Jack has been doing small jobs around the building, mostly items you may not even notice. He repaired the walls and painted both the small men’s and women’s bathrooms. He has replaced over 60 burned out lightbulbs throughout the building (there were 21 in the kitchen alone!), fixed all door stops, replaced some light fixtures in the narthex, killed weeds, cleaned the parking lot of leaves twice, trimmed trees, replaced batteries in the emergency lights and cleaned & organized the maintenance room and still has other things he is working on.

Whew! Their work has been done for their love of the church and not for the recognition. These two are definitely living out their vocation at Peace.

Bike for Justice

On Wednesday, July 1st, families gathered in the parking lot at Peace to decorate bikes and have a bike parade in honor of Independence Day. As we celebrated our nation's birthday, we were also reminded that not all people in the United States are treated justly and our call is to work for love and justice.

In addition to the bike parade, the new "Library of Love" was open and one of the stories was read by Annika Peterson.



Library of Love

Books were read from the Peace Library at the Bike for Justice event on July 1st. These children's books about race, culture and empathy are available to borrow from the Peace library.

The Library is open on Sundays from 10am - 11am.



Race, Justice & Empathy Library

By Annika Peterson

Being a young adult in the world, specifically in the United States, comes with a pressure to have an opinion and use it to make positive change. While that statement holds true, it can be overwhelming. As the Black Lives Matter movement has emerged due to the murder of George Floyd, a baby adult, like me, is culturally pressured to find their outlet of change. The best place to start for me was to attend a student-led event Students in Solidarity; it included a grace space for young, suburban BIPOC (black, indigenous, people of color) students to speak their truth and others to listen and reflect. The event ended with a march in Plymouth. Protesting in the streets I've driven my whole life has allowed for my own reflection on my own upbringing and cultural perspective I've grown up with.

Since my Little Free Library Silver Award Project for Girl Scouts, I have seen the power of literature on a community's culture. I started to create a space for education and reflection, and then decided to incorporate literature from black authors, as well as diversifying the literature toward inclusion and community. Although this may not create monumental change, it will begin difficult and needed conversations for all ages, one person, family, and community at a time.



Camp in a Box

As a way for kids to interact with Camp Wapo during the current pandemic, Wapo decided to offer “Camp in a Box” kits. These kits were purchased for every family, using funds from the spaghetti dinner. The boxes contain a bunch of goodies including keepsake items, craft projects, Bible studies, and activity pages. Families have been working on these at their own pace, they have had the opportunity to share what they have been doing during the Wednesday evening Zoom programming.



FAITH IN DAILY LIFE

By Joni Sutton

Living Her Vocation One Stitch at a Time

Jeanette Colligan is a charter member of Peace Lutheran, having joined in 1974. During her time at Peace, she has been a Sunday School helper, communion server, an usher, a greeter, the Church Council Secretary, a kitchen server, the prayer chain coordinator, has participated in the Barnabas card ministry, and has been Peace's wedding coordinator (which she says is like being the director of a very fun play). Before retirement, she worked in the office of an elementary school in Brooklyn Park. This was a school with many immigrant families who had nearly nothing, and the school was frequently asking for donations. Jeanette says that she learned from her husband Ross's family to be generous and to give to the less fortunate, so during her years at the school, she and her family did all they could to provide for these needs.

Upon retirement, Jeanette decided to take up quilting. She had learned about it from her grandmother, who always had pretty little piles of fabric on the dining room table, and who continued to make handmade quilts into her nineties (her grandmother donated her quilts to Lutheran World Relief). Jeanette slowly got into quilting with some of the women at Peace, and her skills increased. The group's quilts are given to families in need through Simpson Housing, and they are snatched up right away by the grateful families. "It warms my heart that our small group can provide warmth for people who have nothing, and that they can keep them as their very own," says Jeanette.

One of the things Jeanette likes about quilting is that it gives her lots of time to think and pray for people as she is working. "When a name comes to me out of the blue," she says, "I know prayer is needed for that person. I will often hear later the reason why that name came to me. And I am glad I followed that nudge!"

Jeanette has also been busy sewing masks during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. She has donated masks to Mercy Hospital and to the Maple Grove Fire Department. "When I first started sewing masks, Ross asked if I needed to buy material. If anyone knows a quilter, they should know that we all have stashes of material!"

"My joys and challenges of this vocation are that there just isn't enough time in a day to do all the quilting I want to do...and believe me, I do plenty," says Jeanette. She says that quilting brings her joy and peace, and that she has found new friends from around the world through different quilt shops and retreats. Because of quilting she has had the opportunity to travel to California, Oregon, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iceland, Germany and France. The planned quilting trip to the United Kingdom this summer will have to take place in the future!

Jeanette encourages anyone who is interested to please join the group to see what they are about, once they can be together again. You can contact Jeanette at 612-741-4729.



Jeanette Colligan



Do you know someone at Peace who is living out their vocation?

Please drop a note to peace@peaceofplymouth.org for this recurring feature in the PeaceNotes.

Can we help each other?

Do you miss attending worship at Peace? Have you been watching our virtual worship services on Youtube? Are you having trouble? Or, do you know someone who is having trouble accessing worship services online?

When talking with others, please ask these questions. Let's get as many people possible connected to our online community!

Updates & Notices

SAVE THE DATE Sunday, August 2, 12:45pm -- Parking Lot Coffee Hour & ICE CREAM!!!

Yep, you read that correctly. Come to the church parking lot at 12:45pm with your own coffee and your own chair. The ice cream truck will be there for treats as well! Come socialize outside with your Peace brothers and sisters!

At this time we will also be collecting donations for people in South Minneapolis. Please bring any of the following items with you and we will deliver them to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church:

- dish soap
- liquid laundry detergent
- cooking oil
- bottles of body soap
- bars of body soap
- bottles of Gatorade
- baby wipes
- cans of baby formula
- maxi pads



SAVE THE DATE: Welcome Sunday, September 13

No one knows just how the fall will look yet ... but we do know God is with us. Watch for details about how we will begin our program year together.

Thank You for Your Giving

Thank you for your financial gifts to Peace Lutheran Church! The dollars you donate make transformational worship, healthy community and faith active in daily life possible. Thank you! The mission and ministry of Jesus Christ are lived out at Peace as we seek to be a church that lives by faith, is known by love, and brings hope to the world. We thrive because of the financial support of members and all are invited to contribute by mailing a check to Peace, 3695 County Road 101 N., Plymouth, MN 55446 or by visiting www.peaceofplymouth.org. If you would like to donate stock or name Peace Lutheran in your will please contact Pastor Kjell or our Treasurer Jason Tofteland at finance@peaceofplymouth.org
Stewardship Team: Jason Tofteland, Nick Bonow, Lee Yarger and Valerie Sorenson.

The church office is closed.

To contact please email peace@peaceofplymouth.org or call Chris at 612-386-8013



Pastor Kjell can be reached
Sunday-Thursday
at kjell@peaceofplymouth.org
or 763-571-2919
(in case of emergency 24/7)

Prayer Requests

If you have prayer requests you can send them to prayer@peaceofplymouth.org and they will be added to the prayer chain email. If you would like to receive the prayer chain emails sign-up under "News & Events" at peaceofplymouth.org

**Peace Notes is a monthly newsletter.
Deadline for submissions
is the 5th of the month**

Peace Lutheran Church Staff

Lead Pastor Rev. Kjell Ferris
Minister of Music..... Stefanie Fiser Kleven
Organist Anne Phillips
Office Manager Chris Bacon



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COMMUNICATIONS

Want an announcement into the weekly email? Email chris@peaceofplymouth.org by Thursday 5pm.

Want an announcement into the monthly newsletter? Email chris@peaceofplymouth.org by the 5th of the previous month.



Temporary Mailing Address:

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Peaceofplymouth.org

Street address:

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Plymouth, MN 55446-2907

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

New children's books
about race, culture and
empathy available to borrow
from the Peace Library of Love.

All Are Welcome Here

Invite Your Family & Friends



the **7** Faith Practices

Prayer - oriented toward God

Food - eating with Jesus

Worship - seeking God's presence

Sacraments - a tapestry of traditions

Money - the joy of sharing

Service - the needs right around you

Community - an unexpected family

SUNDAY MORNING

9:00 am —Worship Live Streamed

9:45 am —Fellowship & Education
for all ages via Zoom Ministries.

Find these on peaceofplymouth.org



YouTube

Peace is social!

Find us on Facebook

@PeaceofPlymouth or search

Peace Lutheran Church Of Plymouth to stay connected.

Youtube Channel: Peace Lutheran Church of MN

Welcome. Worship. Service.

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