



# Peace Notes

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH, MINNESOTA

Volume 25, Issue 10 | October 2020



**YOUR STORY, OUR STORY, GOD'S STORY**

**Vocation small groups  
and sermon series**

**October 25 - November 22**

## **Your Story, Our Story, God's Story**

**Vocation small groups and sermon series**

October 25 - November 22

"In the beginning...", "Long, long ago, in a kingdom far, far away...", "It was the best of times. It was the worst of times." A good story always draws us in. And we are changed by hearing it. This year we will look back on our story and God's story, spend time wondering about our present story, God's presence, and call within it and dream about our future story as children of God.

**How can I get involved?** To join a virtual small group and get the **Your Story, Our Story, God's Story** book, email [peace@peaceofplymouth.org](mailto:peace@peaceofplymouth.org) or visit [www.peaceofplymouth.org](http://www.peaceofplymouth.org)

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

# Your Story, Our Story, God's Story

## Vocation small groups and sermon series

This year, we are going to gather around story—God's story and your story. In his TED talk, David Isay, the creator of a national storytelling project called StoryCorps, says the following: "In an age where it can be hard to know what's real and what's an advertisement, listening to another person's story can be an experience that is authentic and pure. It can feel like you are standing on holy ground." We'll invite you to consider how your own life story's significance is deepened and shaped by the story of who God is for us in Christ Jesus.

We will worship and meet in small groups during the five weeks from Reformation Sunday (the last Sunday in October) through Nov. 22. Each week will invite you to tell different parts of your story from a new perspective. Just as significant as telling your own story is listening to others' stories in your Peace family, so we hope that relationships will be formed and deepened through simple, weekly gatherings of story-sharing. Beyond the small group gathering, there is also an opportunity each week for private journaling.

These practices—journaling and storytelling—can inform and enrich you. We invite you to try doing both. You may choose to share your journaling during your small group or remain a private reflection space.

Join a virtual small group and get the book, email [peace@peaceofplymouth.org](mailto:peace@peaceofplymouth.org) or visit [www.peaceofplymouth.org](http://www.peaceofplymouth.org)

## Fall Stewardship

In worship, the first three Sundays of October will focus on generosity, our living in response to God's love. During the second week of October, you will receive a letter inviting you to communicate your anticipated 2021 giving to Peace Lutheran Church. Included in that letter will be a card that we'll ask you to return by November 8.

## Faith Practice - Money

Through December, Peace Lutheran is focusing on the faith practice of money. We are challenging ourselves to seek change in the four areas of our lives that Martin Luther describes as living out our vocation: home, congregation, work/volunteer/school, and community engagement.

What is one change you can make to be more generous at...

**Home?** - in September

**Peace Lutheran?** - October

**Work/volunteer/school?** - November

**Community?** - December

As Jesus said in Matthew 6:21, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." What change related to money do you need in each of the areas to draw closer to Jesus? Note that this isn't about salvation; this is about practicing our faith. Jesus' love frees us for an abundant, joy-filled life. This change is about living into the love that is ours through Jesus Christ.



# What does “being generous” mean to you?



When you think of generosity, what comes to mind? Focus on that for a minute or two.

For me, it isn't so much an idea as it is a feeling; my shoulders relax, and I start to breathe more deeply. Generosity is a gift. Being generous frees me from being controlled by the myth of scarcity, and it frees me to see the world through God's eyes.

God is the Great Giver, and I get to participate in God's love and creativity in being generous. Living out God's generosity is my state of being when I am at my best, and that is hard. I figure that if I am living in God's flow 40% of the time, that is the baseball equivalent of batting 400, a fantastic feat! That means that 60% or more of the time, I still see someone else's car and dream about that or look at camp-chairs and want the one that swivels (I love camping gadgets).

One of the things that empower Heidi, my wife, and I to live in God's generosity flow is giving money. For the last 17 years, we have given at least 10% of our income to the church and other nonprofits. Our giving is a gift, and it is freeing us to live more joy-filled lives, communicate about local and global needs, and get the satisfaction of supporting things we value.

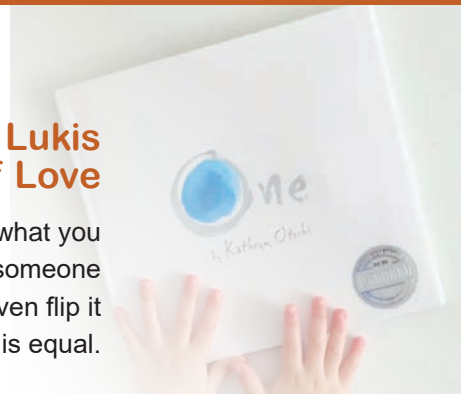
As you learn and grow in your personal generosity journey, what will you do? Is it moving toward or beyond 10%? Is it an extra \$25 per week? Is it naming Peace Lutheran or another organization in your will? Jesus' love moves in us and moves us towards joy and generosity.

Christ's Peace

Pastor Kjell

## Book review by Mirah Lukis One by Kathryn Otoshi, from Peace's Library of Love

**One**, by Kathryn Otoshi teaches you a vital lesson; you can be anything you want, no matter what you look like. This book just goes to show that everyone is equal, and it's a great way to teach someone this in the realm of colors. Anybody can be the One in the story if they try. You could even flip it around. If you're like Red, you can change! The moral of the story is that everyone is equal.



## What are participants saying about the *White Fragility* book study?

“We are getting to know each other on a deeper level and sharing heartfelt stories.”

“At times, the book is a college-level textbook, but it still moves us to deep conversation.”

“It is an eye-opening experience to see the ways that I have acted that would have never struck me as racist but see now that they were.”

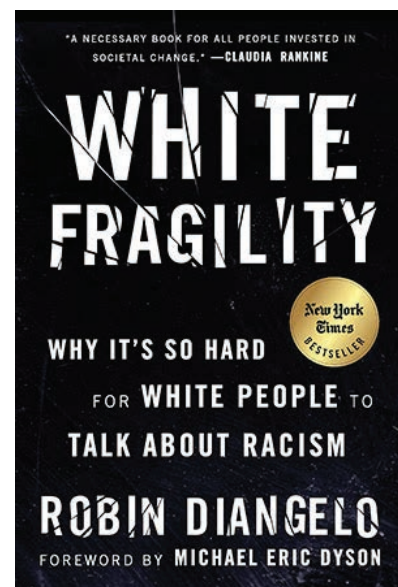
“Good and open conversation that leads to “ah-ha” moments.”

“We are able to talk about the prejudices that we have.”

“This has opened my eyes, and I thought my eyes were open.”

“I am realizing how much I don't know.”

“White people still control all of our institutions, and white people need to change the racism that exists within our systems.”





# A note from the Minister of Music, Stefanie Fiser Kleven

I recently realized that some of you might be wondering how my duties at Peace have changed, given the current realities of our church services! Like everyone else, once the stay-at-home order went into effect in March, the Peace staff and council figured out what we were going to do and how. We were blessed because thanks to Scott Rusten, we had used some video and streaming technology already. So, once we got a few other things figured out and learned how to use Zoom, we could record and broadcast our worship services regularly.

So, what is it like for me? Well, many aspects of my job remained the same or similar; we have staff meetings weekly on Zoom instead of in-person; Kjell and I still meet weekly to plan the worship services, and Kjell and I work together to get the bulletin ready for Sunday morning.

Of course, the most significant change is that we can't all be in the room together to worship, pray, and SING. It's simply heartbreaking that singing itself is a super-spreader of COVID-19! So, the choir and the kids aren't rehearsing and preparing music to share in worship. We have adjusted the worship services accordingly. We've removed most of the call and response, the service isn't as long, and we choose songs differently. Currently, we can best do songs with piano and guitar, and we are intentionally doing more of the same songs for several weeks in a row. We hope that the repetition allows people to learn them well as they watch and sing along from their devices at home.

As always, we strive to use music from various sources, time periods, and cultures. We are tasked with providing a meaningful worship experience through Bible text, songs, and prayers, and usually, we are connecting all of that to an overarching theme. This fall, we started with six weeks of the seven Faith Practices as they relate to the stories from the Old Testament. Beginning on October 25, we will return to our vocation theme, with some updates to the liturgy to fit our current virtual worship structure.

One of my favorite things we do each year is map out which liturgy we will do for which season of the church. It was certainly different this year, as we expect to be having virtual worship through spring 2021. But, I still enjoy the creative process; I get to consider Biblical themes, look through new resources, and call upon the people of Peace's gifts and talents. Even in these times of not meeting together in-person to worship, we will sing to the Lord a new song and some old ones.



## Worshiping Together In Person

For many of us, a mainstay in our lives has been worship, gathering together in the sanctuary to sing and pray, listen to God's word and participate in the Lord's supper has been a valued part of our lives.

COVID has changed the way we gather as a church, and that has been hard. But we are not alone. While the church has a unique calling in our world, we also remember that there are important things we can learn from those working in very different arenas who are facing the same challenges amid a global pandemic.

In travel, an industry hit incredibly hard by the global slowdown; airlines are changing their fee structure (no more change fees), ending some routes, and starting new ones. Teachers struggled heroically to move school online last spring. As schools begin again, they bring months of thought and imagination to this incredibly challenging task (Parents are too!). And how about grandparents? Not to be left out, the older generation is learning Zoom, Facetime, and any number of new ways they can continue to connect with and enjoy their grandchildren.

There are gifts present at Peace Lutheran to help navigate our future. In every walk of life, experienced leaders are thinking about the future and learning what is essential to be preserved and what needs to change. Together we are mapping Peace Lutheran's road ahead.

That being said, Pastor Kjell, staff, and council looked closely at the current guidelines from the MN Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control, as well as being in conversation with local churches to manage the risks associated with in-person gatherings, particularly worship. Our goal is to communicate the plans clearly, but we know plans can change quickly. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Kjell.



**Near the end of August, Peace gathered around the campfire to sing songs, tell stories, and roast s'mores.**

# Support Interfaith Outreach

Interfaith Outreach engages cross-sector partnerships to deliver immediate and family support services, including food, housing and neighborhoods, education and youth, employment, and transportation. The organization has been serving families living in eight west Hennepin County communities since 1979. During this COVID-19 time, resources are needed more than ever.



**Interfaith Outreach™**  
*Igniting the power of community*

Interfaith Outreach has one-time and year-round volunteer opportunities for individuals, high school students, families, civic groups, corporations, faith communities, and friends to make a lasting impact together.

## **New and renewed volunteer roles now available.**

Explore new volunteer opportunities and find your irreplaceable role at Interfaith Outreach this fall! Volunteers are needed to help operate the Interfaith Outreach Food Shelf, Resale Store, and help with health screening before people enter the building. Find details and open shifts at [iocp.volunteerhub.com](https://iocp.volunteerhub.com).

## **Resale Select - store is open online, by appointment.**

The Interfaith Outreach Resale Select store has a variety of shopping and donating options. Take a look:

**Shop online** – The store has handpicked items and prepacked sets of new and like-new goods available for you. Shop online at <https://resaleselect.mybigcommerce.com/> - Shoppers pick up their items curbside on Tuesday or Thursday between 1 - 5 p.m. through a contact-less process.

**Shop by appointment** – Now open for 45-minute appointments in the store. Appointments are for one person with a maximum of 10 people in the store at a time. Dressing rooms not available.

**Book your appointment** at <https://resaleselect.simplybook.me/v2/>

**Donate** – New and like-new items **accepted two days per week**. Monday and Friday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. In accordance with state laws and for our staff and volunteers' safety, do not leave donations outside the building at any time. By shopping at Resale, in-store, and online, you're helping to fund the programs and services of Interfaith Outreach.

## **Financial Donations**

One-time and recurring cash donations help with the budget and future growth planning. Donations are also through gifts of stock, matching gifts through your employer, and gifts in memorial. Interfaith Outreach has several yearly events to include special events, campaigns, and the annual Sleep Out to end homelessness.

More info can be found at <https://www.iocp.org/donations/>

# Boundaries Waters Canoe Area

At the beginning of September, a group from Peace Lutheran partnered with Wilderness Canoe Base, Wapo's camp at the end of the Gunflint Trail, to spend four days canoeing.

**Sylvi Leppa** - "I felt joy when I first got into the boundary waters and felt the rushing wind and sun on my face. Right then, I knew that God was there with me. I felt fear when I saw the wind, the power that nature possesses".

**Eleanor Ferris** - "I loved seeing God's creation uncivilized, fresh and open."

**Sonja Leppa** - "The cold was actually nice because I got to experience how nice my new long-underwear felt."

**Heidi Ferris** - "I was afraid that too many bugs might drive me crazy, but really the wind kept the bugs away."

**Peter Leppa** - "I connected with God because we were able to experience both solitude and community; the beauty of the natural world and of human connection."

**Iris Ferris** - "Before the BWCA trip, I thought God's creation was big and cool, and now I think God's creation is even bigger and cooler."





# FAITH IN DAILY LIFE

By Joni Sutton

## A Lifetime of Giving

How does a person live their vocation? For some, it is in large acts, visible to all. For others, it is in seemingly small actions that have broad outcomes. This month we are learning more about an inspiring member of our congregation, Ilene Forde.

Ilene was born and raised near Brocton, Minnesota. She grew up in a Norwegian neighborhood and learned to speak Norwegian before she spoke English. Before getting married, Ilene worked as a parish worker, assisting the pastor and congregation by reaching out to others, helping with communication, and member visits.

She and her husband, Luther, were charter members of Peace. During her years at Peace, Ilene has taught Sunday School, has sung in the Adult Choir and, has been a member of various women's groups and circles. She also has sung with the Plymouth Rockers, a community choir in our area that she joined at its founding. She is volunteering at Home Free (a battered women's service in Plymouth) and with Interfaith Outreach. She has taught Norwegian language classes and has done rosemåling. She has also painted with acrylics and has done quite a bit of traveling. She has been to Norway six times, and one time was able to attend an event where the King of Norway was present.

Ilene is a huge support to any of us who have been ill or troubled. She never hesitates to send a note or a card when she hears that someone has been struggling. Always uplifting and positive, Ilene's notes had helped countless individuals who had heard from her just when they seemed to need it the most. This one-woman mission of hers bears testament to the difference a small gesture can make. Reaching out to others with a phone call or a kind note seems to be second nature to her. One of her friends says, "I can't say enough about Ilene. She is a lovely and gracious person, and is someone you can confide in and trust."

Ilene says that her life has been blessed and that she was raised with encouragement and love from her parents, grandparents, aunts, co-workers, and fellow students. She wants to pass along this love and encouragement to others simply. In speaking of her notes and phone calls of encouragement, she says, "I never know what lasting results there are. I can only pray that they see the same benefits I received." She also gives credit to her husband, Luther, who, she says, was her most significant motivator in her outreach and in everything she did.

Ilene would tell you that she has not played a significant role at Peace and that she prefers to be in a supporting role to being a leader. Yet some of us lead by example, and Ilene is one of those people. Where she lives, in an apartment complex called "The Waters of Plymouth," the motto for the residents is "THRIVE." Ilene says, "they stress that having a purpose in life results in thriving. And that is true. Because God has redeemed me and promises to walk beside me, I want to be a witness for Him so others can know that He loves them, too."



Ilene Forde



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

**Please drop a note to [peace@peaceofplymouth.org](mailto:peace@peaceofplymouth.org) for this recurring feature in the PeaceNotes.**

## Children Youth and Family Ministries

The children and youth began using a new curriculum over Zoom in September. For the first half of the year, the focus will be on learning about worship, worship elements, liturgy, church seasons, and why we do what we do! The goal will also be to have the kids create pieces for our worship services.

**Help Needed! If anyone feels called to help with Sunday School, please email [Peace@peaceofplymouth.org](mailto:Peace@peaceofplymouth.org), and your email will be directed to where it needs to go.**

If you have a child at Peace and you haven't filled out the survey and registration form, please do so. If you do not have that email or have any questions or concerns, please contact the church office at [peace@peaceofplymouth.org](mailto:peace@peaceofplymouth.org).

While the fall is continuing to look different at Peace, creativity continues to grow around how to continue with a vibrant children's ministry. Stay tuned for new and exciting ways in which the ministry will look moving forward.

# Updates & Notices

## Mark Your Calendar!

### **Worship, Campfire and S'mores!**

Saturday, October 3, 6PM - 7PM

Vocation small groups and sermon series  
October 25 - November 22

### **Reformation Sunday & Blessing of the Bibles**

October 25

### **All Saints Sunday**

November 1



## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:peace@peaceofplymouth.org)  
or call Chris at 612-386-8013



Pastor Kjell can be reached  
Sunday-Thursday  
at [kjell@peaceofplymouth.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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



3695 County Road 101 N.  
Plymouth, MN 55446

763.478.9406

[peace@peaceofplymouth.org](mailto:peace@peaceofplymouth.org)  
[www.peaceofplymouth.org](http://www.peaceofplymouth.org)

## COMMUNICATIONS

Want an announcement into the weekly email? Email [chris@peaceofplymouth.org](mailto:chris@peaceofplymouth.org) by Thursday 5pm.

Want an announcement into the monthly newsletter? Email [chris@peaceofplymouth.org](mailto:chris@peaceofplymouth.org) by the 5th of the previous month.





**Temporary Mailing Address:**

**Peace Lutheran Church**

P.O. Box 416

10961 4th St NE

Hanover, MN 55341

Peaceofplymouth.org

**Street address:**

3695 County Road 101 N

Plymouth, MN 55446-2907

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**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](http://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.

3695 County Road 101 N., Plymouth, MN 55446-2907

[www.peaceofplymouth.org](http://www.peaceofplymouth.org) | 763.478.9406 | [peace@peaceofplymouth.org](mailto:peace@peaceofplymouth.org)