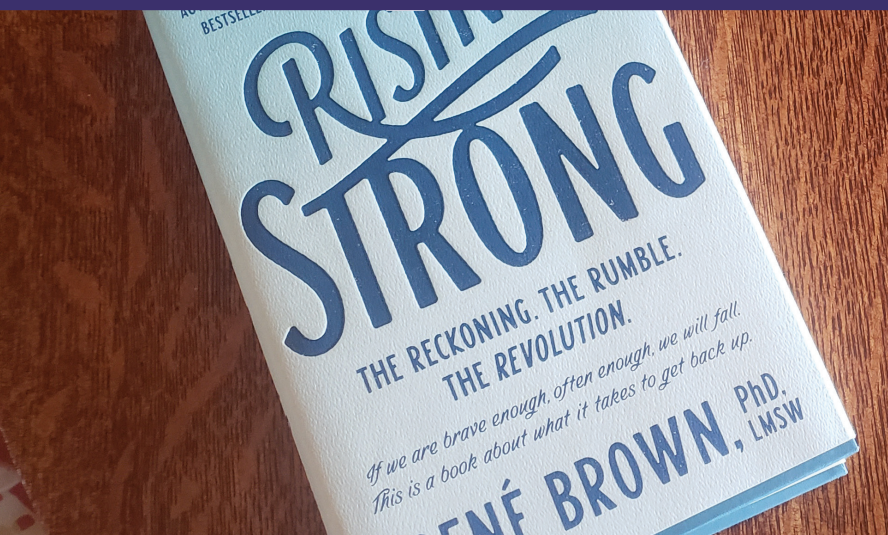




Peace Notes

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH, MINNESOTA

Volume 26, Issue 2 February 2021



“

Integrity is choosing courage over comfort; choosing what is right over what is fun, fast, or easy; and choosing to practice our values rather than simply professing them.

**Brené Brown,
Rising Strong**

LENT 2021: THE ROAD TO RISING STRONG... WALKING WITH JESUS TOWARD JERUSALEM

We will be reading the Gospel of Luke and Brene Brown's best selling book **Rising Strong**.

Why read the book? At the historical core of Lent is examining our lives -- this takes vulnerability, courage, and it entails risk. **Rising Strong** shines a light on God's power to transform us through life's hardships and failures -- empowering us to not shy away from risk.

As we walk with Jesus toward Jerusalem with the stories from the Gospel of Luke, Rising Strong will be our contemporary companion as we: 1) reckon with the emotions we are experiencing and get curious about how we see our stories, 2) rumble with the deeper meaning of the stories we tell ourselves and, 3) be transformed by the revolutionary nature of Jesus' love in our thoughts and beliefs, impacting how we live, love, lead, parent, and participate as citizens.

Brown reminds us that "Love is not like pizza, where we have eight pieces, and it's gone. When you practice empathy and compassion, there's not less of these qualities to go around. There's more! Love is the last thing we need to ration in this world."

Why join a group? In small groups, you are able to reflect, share, and listen about the joys and messiness of the life of faith.

Small groups -- To join a small group, email peace@peaceofplymouth.org

Mondays @ 4:30 pm - led by Pastor Kjell
Thursdays @ 7:00 pm - led by Joni Sutton

Please purchase your book or e-book through your favorite bookseller.



LENTEN WORSHIP

Ash Wednesday, February 17, 7:00 pm

Jesus Turns to Jerusalem

Luke 9:51-62

Worship will be streamed as usual, and if current state guidelines allow, we plan to have worshippers in the sanctuary as well. Watch the e-news for more information about signing up to attend in person. **Drive-through Communion will be held from 4pm - 6pm.**

Wednesdays, February 24 - March 17

Join us for Holden Evening Prayer worship virtually at 7:00 pm, through our website as usual.

Lenten Wednesday Nights, starting February 17

6:00 pm - "Sunday School" and Confirmation programming on Zoom

7:00 pm - worship service live-stream

Sundays, February 21 - March 21

Join us for worship online, as usual, at 9:00 am. As we have done for several recent years during Lent, we will worship using the Holy Communion ELW Setting 4, written by Ronald Nelson.

February 21

The Good Samaritan

Luke 10: 25-42

Rising Strong, Chapters 1 & 2

February 28

Lament over Jerusalem

Luke 13:1-9, 31-35

Rising Strong, Chapters 3 & 4

March 7

The Parables of The Lost Sheep,

The Lost Coin, and

The Prodigal Son

Luke 15:1-32

Rising Strong, Chapters 5 & 6

March 14

The Rich Man and Lazarus

Luke 16:19-31

Rising Strong, Chapters 7 & 8

March 21

Zacchaeus

Luke 18:31-19:10

Rising Strong, Chapters 9, 10 & 11



FAITH PRACTICES MATTER

Faith is a verb. Faith is something we live. You can be mindful of God's presence in your lives as you:

Pray daily.

Read and reflect on scripture, and relate it to your daily life.

Serve at and beyond the church and financially support God's mission.

Celebrate who God is and God's active engagement in the world through worship and vocation.

A NOTE FROM COUNCIL

Council would like to thank everyone who participated in the listening sessions on January 12th. Similar topics and ideas were voiced in all groups, allowing us to identify common themes and member needs. At the time of this printing, leadership is working toward several changes to take effect in the very near term, and several others for which more time is needed to determine the best approach. Please know that in the meantime, we are committed to finding solutions and implementing change. We believe collecting feedback and suggestions is a continuous process as the congregation's needs can change, so please know that you can contact your congregational council at any time.

PASTORAL CARE

What is pastoral care, and when do I need it? Whenever you think about needing it and even when you don't. Pastor Kjell says, "There is a long list of why people have reached out to me: job loss, the birth of a child, hospitalization or death, mental health illness, questions about purpose at work or retirement, weddings, and many more." Pastor Kjell focuses on the spiritual aspects of life, walking with you in life's messiness and joy. Asking for help is often challenging, but know that Pastor Kjell cares and has access to many resources: mental health, addiction, grief counseling, small group ministries, and more. You can reach Pastor Kjell at his mobile number 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with emergencies at 763-571-2919, or you can call or email him Sunday through Thursday, kjell@peaceofplymouth.org.

CONNECTION WITH SHUT-INS

Since before COVID-19, Peace has had a dedicated team that connects monthly with Peace Lutheran members who have limited ability to get out of their homes. A huge thank you to those callers: Jan Yarger, Diane Johnson, Lana Ferris, and Grace Tauring.

If you would like to be part of this team, or if you or someone you know would like to be called by this team, please email peace@peaceofplymouth.org or call Pastor Kjell at 763-571-2919.

TECHNOLOGY TEAM

We wish to extend a huge thank you to the dedicated group that makes the streaming of worship possible and works to improve the quality. Scott Rusten, who had figured out how we could stream worship before COVID-19. Bob Samuelson, who configured our sound system and Jason Toffeland orchestrated the technological aspects during streaming. As the year progressed, Roger and Angela Birnbaum, and Steve Johnson were added to the team doing behind-the-scenes digital work. Thank you!



PUZZLEMANIA COMING TO PEACE LUTHERAN

By Eleanor Ferris



Guess what? A collection of puzzles is at our church! All people are welcome and invited to borrow and add to the new “puzzle library” starting this February. We are calling it the Peace Lutheran Connection Collection because puzzle pieces connect, and talking about puzzles connects people, too. Puzzles are a loving way to connect in multiple ways, and I challenge you to puzzle with family or in a social distance puzzling competition with a friend. Who will finish first?

Nancy and Liese Peterson are some puzzlers, and I interviewed them, and here is what they think about the sport of puzzling. Liese says puzzles are just fun! She

said that her biggest puzzle was 2000 pieces and as big as the kitchen table. How impressive! Are you challenging us, Liese? Nancy shared that when she is doing a puzzle with friends or family, she feels connected to them. Liese said, “Christmas at the Peterson household is the family around the table, talking, and plunking pieces in.”

For many people, puzzles are calming, relaxing, centering, and can even offer connection, silly competition, and conversation. Stress can make life really hard, and everyone needs an outlet, something to help you relax or express your feelings, and calm down. Liese is a chemist. When I asked her what she likes about puzzling, she said, “A new puzzle is like a box of chaos, but then everything has a spot.” Nancy shared that puzzling gives her space to think. I agree with Nancy and Liese, and if you find a puzzle that’s just right (kind of like a “just right” book), then everyone might just like puzzles!

Peace Lutheran Church cares about people’s mental health, so we are adding a new collection of puzzles that you can borrow and add to if you would like. The new Peace Lutheran Connection Collection puzzle library currently has about 10 puzzles of all kinds, and we’re looking for more donations. Puzzles can be checked out by signing your name in the notebook. After you finish the puzzle, be sure to autograph the page in the box and make some notes, then return the puzzle to church for the next person to use.

Puzzles can be picked up on Sunday morning from 10 am-11 am, or Nancy Peterson is willing to meet on an evening or weekend. Email her at mnpeterson@comcast.net

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH and JUSTICE

by Martha Knutson

During a conversation with Janelle Leppa, I mentioned random memories of the ELCA's and Peace's involvement in past social justice issues. She asked me to share those memories.

After George Floyd was killed, I read a devotion written by a retired pastor. He attended the first Luther League convention of the American Lutheran Church (ALC) in Miami, Florida, in 1961. One of the keynote speakers was a young black preacher. The ALC director of youth ministry received 600 letters of protest when people realized the speaker was black. Though the preacher offered not to come, the youth minister convinced him to come. That preacher's name was Martin Luther King Jr. One youth minister resisted 600 "protests" of fellow church members!

I read an article reporting Pastor Robert Graetz's death, the white (ALC) pastor of a majority-black congregation in Montgomery, Alabama. Pastor Graetz was known for his support of the Montgomery bus boycott in 1965. He helped organize carpools to drive his black neighbors to work or shopping and was harassed by white neighbors as a result. Though he was forced to move to another state, he continued to fight for civil rights issues and advocate in support of gay rights. Rev. Paul Boe was an ALC pastor and activist. In 1973 he was invited by leaders of the American Indian Movement (AIM), who gathered at Wounded Knee, SD, to protest alleged U.S. failure to honor treaties, to visit them for religious counseling. He was the only clergy invited and faced prison when he refused to answer authorities' questions, which he deemed a betrayal of clergy confidence. He was supported by the Lutheran Church at large, including the ALC, LCA, Missouri Synod, and eight other major protestant denominations.

I remembered the history of the Peace Lutheran Church of Plymouth, starting during the 1980s when Dick and I became members. Over the years, there have been many ministries, from sponsoring two young refugees from VietNam to providing shelter to homeless families, knitting mittens (Bunny Rova!) and delivering them to the Marie Sandvick Center (Harry Dahl!), helping girls in Tanzania attend school, sending our youth on mission trips. Peace has supported IOCP, slept out in the cold, made sandwiches for folks who are hungry, supported a chaplaincy ministry in Latvia, as well as synod-wide ministries, and partnered with TreeHouse. To me, all these activities are ministries, and sometimes ministry is called activism.

When George Floyd was killed, it seemed natural for the Lutheran Church to stand with the victims of injustice to answer God's call. Our congregation was asked to help folks in Mpls who were struggling after the protests, and we chipped in. As in past years, a need has arisen--this time to resist racial injustice. So, of course, the ELCA and Peace answered the call for help. We always have.

I realized that Lutherans have never avoided confronting injustice but have been present at times of need. This realization did not make me complacent. It reminded me that the work is ongoing, that we are called daily to see, pray, and act. I noticed that the church never "became the movement itself"---that was left to civic leaders. The Lutheran Church always acted in response to the Gospel. Politics are not traditionally preached in a worship service, but the Gospel is preached, so we are still called to serve. It seems the most critical "movements" resulted from acts of individuals who just felt called, then acted. It gave me hope to try again... that no action is too small.

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FAITH IN DAILY LIFE

By Joni Sutton

This month's featured Peace member, Annie Bonow, is a teacher, an artist, a wife, and a mother. She is a woman who knows how to live life to the fullest with her many talents and vocations.

The daughter of a skilled seamstress, Annie has a very creative side to her, but in elementary school, she realized she also had a real knack for mathematics. "I clearly remember the day when I needed help on a math problem, and I realized no one at home was going to be able to help me," she admits. She had a tough time deciding on a college major. She felt she needed to choose between math and art. With the help of a career exploration class, she found the last piece of the puzzle. Annie had a strong interest in helping others. Her path was chosen; she would become a math teacher. In this profession, she could

channel her creativity into her classroom while helping students understand high school math. After student teaching at South High School in Minneapolis, she knew she would prefer to work with a diverse population. She was hired to teach at Park Center Senior High in Brooklyn Park and stayed there for the next nine years. In this culturally diverse school setting, she says her eyes were opened to various life experiences and cultures. "The students there taught me just as much about life as I taught them about math," she says. Although she stopped teaching after her second child's birth, she returned to Park Center as a substitute teacher not long ago. She likes being able to reassure teachers that learning is still taking place in their absence.

When she left teaching, Annie's vocation shifted from public school teaching to volunteering at Peace. With her strong desire to help others and work collaboratively, she has helped create programming and learning opportunities. She has worked extensively with the Children, Youth, and Family Committee. She has taught Sunday School, has served on the church council, has driven for Meals on Wheels, has participated in two house building mission trips in the Dominican Republic, has helped run Day Camp, and has housed camp counselors. Annie's most recently was part of the group that created the Easter Resurrection Garden and Advent take-home resources that were provided due to COVID-19. Many of you may have also seen her family's Lego video from last year's Lenten season, where Annie and her children used the stop-action recording to tell a story with Legos. Yes, that creative side is still alive and well!

When asked what the challenges of her vocation have been, she says that it takes a lot of energy to teach and that when she was working full time, she had very little "left in the tank" to feel balanced and healthy. Now, she says she feels like she is thriving when her life is calm, her children are content, and her cup "is so full I can overflow God's love to others in my community, church or family." She adds that for her, vocation and faith have a strong connection. Giving and helping others makes her feel more connected to God and the teachings of Jesus.

Thank you, Annie, for all the work you have done for your students over the years, as well as for our congregation!



**Annie and Nick Bonow,
Nora and Ian**

Vocation
Faith in Daily Life

Updates and Notices

Ash Wednesday Worship, February 17

7:00 pm, in-person and streamed online through our website as usual. Email peace@peaceofplymouth.org to sign up to attend in person.

Worship on Sundays, February 21 - March 21

ELW Setting 4, at 9:00, am through our website as usual.

Worship on Wednesdays, February 24 - March 17

Holden Evening Prayer worship, at 7:00 pm, through our website as usual.

Lenten Wednesday Nights, starting February 17

6:00 pm - "Sunday School" and Confirmation programming on Zoom

7:00 pm - Holden Evening Prayer service live-stream

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.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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3695 County Road 101 N

Plymouth, MN 55446-2907

Ash Wednesday, February 17

Worship 7pm, in-person & streaming

Signup by emailing peace@peaceofplymouth.org

All Are Welcome Here

Invite Your Family & Friends

LENT

THE ROAD TO RISING STRONG...
WALKING WITH JESUS TOWARD JERUSALEM

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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