



# Peace Notes

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH, MINNESOTA

Volume 26, Issue 7 July 2021 2021



## Seeking Refuge

### Seeking Refuge Worship Series

The Seeking Refuge liturgy and sermon series is the backbone of our worship life together through July 18th. Pastor Jason Lukis and Tom Struwve created Seeking Refuge, a worship service rooted in a spiritual invitation to cultivate solidarity and compassion for forcibly displaced people, both throughout the scriptural narrative and in our world today.

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FAITH FORMATION - COMING THIS FALL!

### Seeking Refuge Prayer Practice

The Psalms can be challenging for present-day readers to connect with, particularly when we do not share the life experience and historical contexts. One powerful way to connect with these poetic prayers in our own lives is to enter into reading with the question of "whose prayer is this today." During July, use this Psalm as a prayer of one seeking refuge.

#### One way to pray:

- Choose a time of day.
- Start with deep breathing.
- Thank God for being present in your life.
- Read Psalm 69:1-8 as a prayer of those seeking refuge; breathe deeply.
- Reread Psalm 69:1-8.
- Notice thoughts and feelings (many people benefit from journaling these reflections).

### Psalm 69: 1-8

*Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck. I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me. I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched. My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God. More in number than the hairs of my head are those who hate me without cause; many are those who would destroy me, my enemies who accuse me falsely. What I did not steal must I now restore? O God, you know my folly; the wrongs I have done are not hidden from you. Do not let those who hope in you be put to shame because of me, O Lord God of hosts; do not let those who seek you be dishonored because of me, O God of Israel. AMEN.*

We will continue to offer virtual worship via our website and YouTube channel.

# FAITH IN DAILY LIFE

By Joni Sutton

This month we are featuring someone from our congregation who has been a member since before he could walk! As he heads off to Harvard Law School in the fall, we thought it would be good to visit with **Bobby Isbell** about how he sees himself living his vocation.

Bobby grew up in Plymouth and attended Wayzata High School before earning his bachelor's degree in Economics and Political Science (with a concentration in Statistics) at St. Olaf College. In high school, Bobby played trumpet, sang in the choir, and participated in theatrical performances. In addition to these Fine Arts activities, he was on the high school baseball team - a remarkably busy guy! At St. Olaf, he did many of these same things. His proudest moment as a senior at St. Olaf was being named captain of the baseball team. At Peace, Bobby has been active in choirs since he was in the Cherub Choir, has played trumpet for us on Easter mornings, and has frequently been a participant in services using a theatrical script for their narrative. Bobby has also frequently sung with his sister (Annika), mother (Inger Trooien), uncle, and grandparents (Todd, Phil, and Roberta).

As mentioned above, Bobby will be heading off to Boston in the fall. When asked how he envisions his future vocation with a law degree, he says that he is glad that he has three years to decide! In a more serious vein, he adds, "What I can promise is that no matter what, I want to be serving people in some way. Whether that's as a public defender, or an immigration attorney, or something I haven't even heard of yet; I want to work in a job where I know I'm helping to make the world a better place." However lofty a career in Law with a degree from Harvard sounds, Bobby has a higher goal in mind: "If I'm being honest, my true dream job is, and always has been, to be a Dad. I know my career will always be second to my own family I hope to have--but a little way down the road still," he says.

When asked about how his faith connects with his vocation, he says that his faith is the whole reason for his vocation. He adds, "Jesus' last commandment to us at the last supper was to 'love one another as he loved us.' Jesus loved us by clothing the poor, feeding the hungry, healing the sick, and fighting for justice for those who have been left out or left behind by society. We all inevitably fall short of that standard every single day, but I want my career and vocation to be one where I can feel that I am pursuing the type of love that Jesus talked about in that final commandment. I have always leaned on my faith in the best and the worst of times." In addition, he says that he sees life as defined by the common bonds we have with other people. "In our state, there are so many ways our institutions work better for some people than others, whether it's racial disparities in education, or economic inequality, or rising medical costs. He feels a responsibility as a "teammate" in society to lead and help however he can. By practicing Law, he hopes to contribute in some small way to making our communities a little more just and free.

Bobby, your church family, wishes you well as you venture out of Minnesota to a new and challenging adventure. We hope you will have time to soak in the area's history, have a slice of Boston Cream Pie, and enjoy some downtime at Fenway Park!



**Bobby Isbell**

Vocation  
Faith in Daily Life

## 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](mailto:kjell@peaceofplymouth.org).

# Jeremiah Worship Series

The Biblical book of Jeremiah looks at several chaotic periods in the history of ancient Israel. It comes together when the community tries to make sense of a traumatic past. Currently, we are amid pandemic and post-pandemic life, experiencing chaos and seeking to understand what has happened and what is coming next. Jeremiah comes alongside us, comforts and challenges us, and beautifully integrates with Jesus' message of love and care for self and neighbor.

- July 25th: Jeremiah 1:1-10 (Call of Jeremiah)
- August 1st: Jeremiah 7:1-11 (Temple Sermon)
- August 8th: Jeremiah 18:1-11 (Potter and the Clay)
- August 15th: Jeremiah 36:1-8, 21-23, 27-31 (Scroll Burned and Rewritten)
- August 22nd: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14 (Letter to the Exiles)
- August 29th: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 Hope (Planting and Building)
- September 5th: Jeremiah 33:14-18; 31:31-34 (Messiah and New Covenant)

## STRENGTHENING FAITH, ONE FAITH PRACTICE AT A TIME

In the Congregational Vitality Survey, the people of Peace said they would like to strengthen their faith. So, way back in May of 2020, Peace Lutheran began exercising a different "faith muscle" every four months.

- 2020 May through August, we focused on prayer--being oriented toward God.
- September through December, we were working our generosity muscle--experiencing the joy of sharing.
- 2021 January through April, we turned our attention toward the faith practice of community--an unexpected family.
- May through August, experiencing how food draws us together in faith.

Thinking about food as a faith practice...

How did/does your family of origin use food to celebrate, to share, and to bring the people together?

How did/does Peace Lutheran Church use food to celebrate, to share, and to bring the community together?

What images does the phrase "eating with Jesus" bring to mind for you?

### Faith Practice Food Events:

**Sunday, August 1st, 10:00 am**

- Ice cream truck and plenty of fun!
- House of Charity collection drive, Aug. 1 - 29
- Blessing of all Camp Ministry participants.

**Wednesday, August 25th, 6:00 pm**

- Picnic and Bonfire.



Peace at Play!







# FAITH FORMATION



Peace is excited to announce the faith formation plan for the 2021-2022 program year. In order to strengthen individual faith and nurture a love of God in the next generations, there will be small group Bible studies, music, classroom education, and fellowship on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings.

**But we cannot do it without YOU!** There is a place for all to engage as a participant and/or leader. We need volunteers to facilitate learning in these five groups: pre-school, elementary pre-confirmation, confirmation, high school and adult.

**Wednesday:** Children's Music, Youth Music, Adult Choir, Handbells, Small Group Bible Study, Confirmation, Pre-Confirmation, Fellowship and Games.

**Sunday:** Worship, Children's Music, Preschool and Elementary Sunday School, Confirmation and Pre-Confirmation

Are you feeling the call to share the "Good News" with others? Short and long term leadership opportunities are available. Contact Deb Weir at [debweir@comcast.net](mailto:debweir@comcast.net) or Annie Bonow at [anniebonow@gmail.com](mailto:anniebonow@gmail.com). Schedules will be created and communicated in August.

## Peace at Play!



## Games!



## Campfire!



## Blessing of the bikes

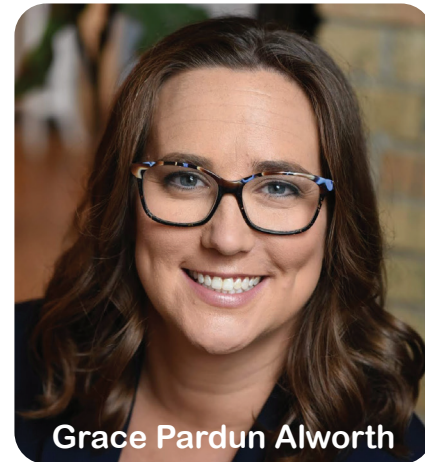




# Updates and Notices

## Congratulations to Grace Pardun Alworth

Over the last four years, Grace has preached at Peace Lutheran many times. She graduated from Luther Seminary last year, and last month St. Matthew's Lutheran Church of Paducah, KY, voted to call her as their pastor. Congratulations, Grace and St. Matthew's! Peace Lutheran celebrates our role as a teaching congregation. Grace has invited anyone who would like to attend her installation and ordination on Sunday August 8 at 2pm, The Roofless Church, New Harmony, IN. Reception to follow.



Grace Pardun Alworth

## CHOOSE A HYMN -- WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Stef and Kjell spend a good deal of time choosing hymns and songs for worship, but we're always curious what hymns YOU would choose! We hope you will send us your suggestions for possible use in our worship services in the upcoming months. Please send your suggestions to [peace@peaceofplymouth.org](mailto:peace@peaceofplymouth.org)!

### Tuesday, July 13th, 6:00 pm

- Committee Night and Fall Calendar event (no committee night the week before due to the 4th of July holiday)

### Sunday, August 1st, 10:00 am

- Ice cream truck and plenty of fun!
- House of Charity collection drive, Aug. 1- 29
- Blessing of all Camp Ministry participants

### Wednesday, August 25th, 6:00 pm

- Picnic and Bonfire



### Church office hours Wednesdays, 10 am - 4 pm.

Please send your mail to: 3695 County Rd 101 N., Plymouth, MN 55446.

### To reach the church office

Please email [peace@peaceofplymouth.org](mailto:peace@peaceofplymouth.org) or call: Peace at 763-478-9406 or 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



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# 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.



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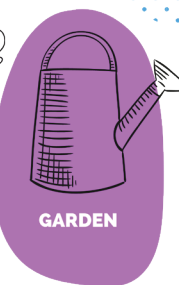
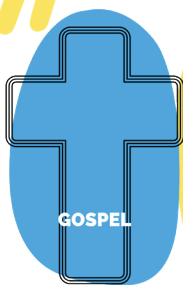
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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Join us for  
Outdoor Worship!**

## All Are Welcome Here

*Invite Your Family & Friends*



### SUNDAY MORNING

9:00 am —Worship Live Streamed & In-Person

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.

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