



# Peace Notes

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH, MINNESOTA

Volume 26, Issue 10, October 2021



ABOVE ALL THESE THINGS PUT ON LOVE,  
WHICH HOLDS ALL THINGS TOGETHER.

~COLOSSIANS 3:14

## TOGETHER IN LOVE: YOUR STORY, OUR STORY, GOD'S STORY Vocation Bible Study and Worship Series

October 24 - November 21

Love is lived out in many ways, but listening to someone's story and sharing our story is one of the key ways we "put on love." This year's Vocation small group Bible study and worship series will focus on Peace's mission to care, connect, and celebrate. You will connect more deeply to God's story, be opened to the stories of your neighbor, and be empowered to share your story. Sermons will connect to the weekly readings, and small groups will meet in-person after Sunday worship and on Wednesday nights after dinner. An additional Zoom meeting will be held during the week.

**How can I get involved?** To join a Bible study group and get the *Your Story, Our Story, God's Story* book, email [peace@peaceofplymouth.org](mailto:peace@peaceofplymouth.org) or signup at [www.peaceofplymouth.org](http://www.peaceofplymouth.org) (see page 2).

## FILLING BUCKETS: CARE, CONNECT, AND CELEBRATE

In-person Sunday, Oct 10, 10am and Zoom Tuesday, Oct 12, 7pm

Join as we fill the three "buckets" of our mission to Care, Connect, and Celebrate. During this hour and a half session, Michael Sorenson of Council and the Bridgebuilder team will lead our brainstorming session to clearly define what it will look like as Peace lives out its mission.

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

# WHAT DOES BEING GENEROUS MEAN TO YOU?



When you think of generosity, what comes to mind? I invite you to reflect 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 when I am generous. Living out God's generosity is my state of being when I am at my best, and that is hard. One thing that empowers Heidi, my wife, and me to live in God's generosity 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 frees 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 toward joy and generosity.

Christ's Peace,

Pastor Kjell

## YOUR STORY, OUR STORY, GOD'S STORY

### Vocation small group Bible study and sermon series

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."* As Peace gathers around "Together In Love," this study allows 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.

Each week you will reflect on 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. "Together In Love" will be lived out as relationships are formed and deepened through the power of the story. 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 that week's small group or remain in a private reflection space.

**Small groups will meet in-person after Sunday worship and on Wednesday nights after dinner. An additional Zoom meeting will be held during the week. To join a small group and get the book, email [peace@peaceofplymouth.org](mailto:peace@peaceofplymouth.org) or visit [www.peaceofplymouth.org](http://www.peaceofplymouth.org) to sign up.**



## Ty Stoffel, Eagle Scout Candidate

My name is Ty Stoffel, and I have been a part of the Peace Community since my baptism 17 years ago. Growing up, the church and people that make up our wonderful congregation have played an essential part in my life.

Another vital part of my life is Boy Scouts, and one of the last steps on my trail to Eagle was leading a community service project. I saw this as an excellent opportunity to give back to Peace, the community so important to me as I grew up.

For this project, we completely revitalized the outdoor space opposite the Church parking lot. We cleared weeds, small trees, and buckthorn for a wide wood chip-covered path through the oak grove. Additionally, we refinished the trellis arbor at the entrance and constructed two versatile flip-top benches along the path. We also planted two apple trees adjacent to the oak grove.

I am so thankful for all of the wonderful volunteers from our congregation who came out to help; we could not have done it without you. I also look forward to seeing this space in use. We put in a lot of work, so we invite you to come out and use this space to gather, pray, study, work, meditate or just relax. We built the space for you, so don't hesitate to check it out.

Peace,  
Ty



## OPERATION BOOTSTRAP AFRICA

Olchoki Primary School in Northern Tanzania serves approximately 1,400 children. Classes run from 7:00 am-3:00 pm each day. In January 2020, Operation Bootstrap Africa started a program that feeds all of the students and staff lunch that otherwise would very likely not get even one satisfying meal a day.

Attendance at the school was spotty, and the learning and passing rate was poor. With the help of generous donors like you, the children of the Olchoki Primary School in Arusha, Tanzania, are showing up and learning, passing their classes at a rate that was unthinkable before the program started, and looking forward to going to school. Since starting the program, over half a million lunches have been provided.

In 2022, OBA hopes to provide lunch for each of the 1,400 students at the school daily.





# FAITH IN DAILY LIFE

By Joni Sutton

As a ten-year-old in Faribault, Minnesota, Jan McDowell noticed a boy on the school playground who “could really hit a ball and run very fast.” She was impressed, and they became best friends. Many years later, they are *still* best friends. Jan married that athletic boy, Lee Yarger, and they have been married for 57 years.

Jan is a retired registered nurse who worked in oncology, home healthcare, and hospice. She was also a Parish Nurse. She and Lee had two sons, Jon and Chris. Jon is a Lutheran Pastor and the father of two. One granddaughter works with the homeless, and the other is a student at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. Jan and Lee’s son, Chris, was killed in a snowmobile accident four and a half years ago.



Asked what she considers her vocations, she replies that she sees her vocations as being a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a friend, a neighbor, and a retired nurse. In living her vocations, Jan says that she tries to live her life with integrity and that she tries to live what she believes to be true. “I hope I exhibit tolerance and kindness, and love of people,” she says. “I often ask myself, ‘What would Jesus do?’”

Especially with Parish Nursing, her faith has helped her see and help people with their physical and mental health and their spiritual health. “Being able to talk about their faith and pray with patients was a privilege and a joy.” When asked about the joys of her vocations, she responds that they are “the love received and given.” But there are challenges, too. “When you love and lose someone, the grief never ends. It is especially hard to lose a child. You never get over it: you just learn to live with it.”

Although she didn’t mention it when listing her vocations, one special vocation of Jan’s has been a pastor’s wife. She wasn’t incredibly anxious to have this as a vocation. When Lee asked her to marry him, she said she wanted to do so, but she wasn’t sure about becoming a pastor’s wife. “I didn’t want to live my life and raise my children in a fishbowl,” she says. A pastor’s wife Lee knew, gave Jan some good advice when she considered Lee’s proposal: the role of a pastor’s wife is whatever it would be if your husband were the garbage collector! She took that to heart and found that being a pastor’s wife was generally a joy and a privilege. She sang in the choir, played handbells, belonged to women’s groups and Bible study groups, and volunteered as a Parish Nurse. She says her greatest accomplishment was starting a Free Clinic in their church, staffed by volunteer doctors, nurse practitioners, and nurses.

Jan and Lee joined Peace four years ago. Because Lee is often preaching as an interim pastor, Jan is frequently with him on Sunday mornings at the church he is serving. All the same, she has participated in Bible study at Peace, has helped with phone calls to members who might need extra help during Covid, has joined book study groups, and participated in Faithfully Fit classes. In joining Peace, it was the first time that she and Lee were “regular people,” She says it was good for them to see the church from that perspective. “The church, at its best, is the most shining example of humanity caring for one another,” Jan attests. Thank you for a lifetime of caring for others, Jan!



Jan Yarger



# Fun on the tire swing!

The Pre-Confirmation students and families met on Thursday, September 9, to prepare for this year's learning. Here's to a great start to 2021-2022!

*Nora Bonow, Sonja Leppa, Iris Ferris, Daniel Lukis, Austin Reeves, and Kate Bickley*





## FALL FOCUS ON GENEROSITY

October 3, 10, and 17

Generosity is living in response to God's love. In worship, the first three Sundays of October will focus on generosity. Sunday, October 3, the Generosity Team (Valerie Sorenson, Nick Bonow, Lee Yarger, Jason Tofteland, and Pastor Kjell) will share stories about how Peace is living into the fullness of God's generosity. During the first week of October, you will receive a letter inviting you to communicate your anticipated 2022 giving to Peace Lutheran Church. Included in that letter will be a card that we'll ask you to return on Sunday, October 17, as part of the worship service, or you can mail or email your estimated giving to the church. Thank you for your generosity!

## GIVING STOCK

With the stock markets at or near all-time highs, some members may have appreciated stocks they would like to donate to Peace. Remember, a stock donation may be tax deductible for the stock's current market value, plus you won't have to pay capital gains tax on the appreciation in value if you donate the stock directly to Peace instead of selling the stock and donating proceeds. If you wish to donate stocks, contact your broker and instruct them to transfer the stock directly into Peace Lutheran Church of Plymouth's brokerage account at Charles Schwab.

Please email Peace's Treasurer, Jason Tofteland ([finance@peaceofplymouth.org](mailto:finance@peaceofplymouth.org)), to request the account number and DTC number and let him know you are transferring stock into Peace's account. He will then be able to sell it once it has been deposited in the church account.

## SAVE THE DATE: CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REVEAL!

Wednesday, October 27, 6:00 pm

'Tis the season once again! As in years past, Peace is planning a CROSS+Generational Christmas Pageant for Sunday, December 12, 9:00 am. All are welcome to participate - ALL unique gifts and talents are needed for this special event, not just actors and musicians!

On Wednesday, October 27, come for Peaceful Nights dinner and stay for **LutheranLIVE!**

Stefanie Fiser Kleven will share her faith and vocation and **REVEAL THE 2021 PAGEANT!!**

Don't miss it!





# Updates and Notices

## Sunday, October 17

Bring your completed pledge card with you to worship.

## Wednesday, October 20

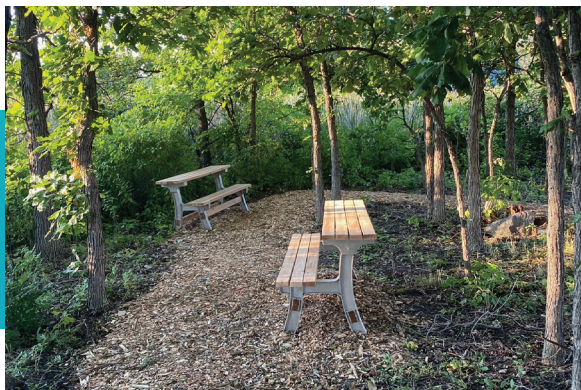
There is NO Peaceful Nights.

## Wednesday, October 27, 6:00 pm

Christmas Pageant Reveal by Stefanie Fiser Kleven at **LutheranLIVE!**

## Sunday, October 31

Reformation Sunday. Wear red to celebrate! Join after worship for an inter-generational reading of *"The life of Martin Luther"* pop-up book.



### TY STOFFEL Eagle Scout Project



#### Church office hours:

Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10 am - 4 pm  
or by appointment.

#### Please send mail to our street address:

3695 County Road, 101 N., Plymouth, MN 55446  
The P.O. Box has been closed.



**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.



# PEACE

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

3695 County Road 101 N  
Plymouth, MN 55446-2907

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## October is Generosity Month!

### All Are Welcome Here

*Invite Your Family & Friends*



**September 12th - October 17th 2021  
Sermon Series**

### 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](https://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

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