



# Peace Notes

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH, MINNESOTA

Volume 27, Issue 01, January 2022



## EPIPHANY 2022



### FAITH PRACTICES - WORSHIP

*The light shines in the darkness  
and the darkness did not overcome it.  
~ John 1:5*

We continue the "Faith Practices" focus that started way back in 2019 by looking at the faith practice of worship as we worship Christ the newborn king. For the next four months we will lift up the faith practice of worship... perhaps the first faith practice that comes to mind. As this faith practice unfolds, we will see how worship lives outside of Sunday worship, infusing all the parts of our lives.



### "Sing We All Noel" 2021 Christmas Pageant



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

# FAITH IN DAILY LIFE

By Joni Sutton

What do computer science, math, IT consulting, and data analysis have to do with living one's vocation? This month, we'll find out from Peace member Jason Tofteland.

On a farm that had stayed in his family for 100 years, Jason grew up near Luverne, Minnesota, where his parents raised pigs and grew corn and soybeans. In 2020, going to the farm was a favorite activity for the family, where the children could have the freedom to run and play outdoors (the farm was sold this past summer). Jason attended Concordia College, where he completed his computer science and math degrees. He and his wife Kate moved to Plymouth in 2017 and joined Peace not long after that. Jason and Kate have three children: Sadie (9), Simon (5), and Sloane (3).

Jason works in IT consulting, with his most recent work centered on data and analytics. He helps clients bridge the gap between business processes and IT solutions and works to help clients better manage and analyze their data. Jason feels that his vocation revolves around problem-solving for analytical requests. He says that he enjoys "digging in and understanding how clients can better leverage the data they have to make informed decisions." He tells us that the work he does is often like a puzzle, where it takes time and patience to find all the right pieces and align them in just the right way. He finds it to be gratifying when the puzzle comes together. However, it can be very challenging when all of the pieces are not available, and he needs to try to find alternatives to fill in the gaps. Jason is currently the treasurer on our Church Council, and he also helps with the video streaming we have on Sunday mornings. He says that his vocation's technical and analytical parts have been beneficial in these roles.

When asked what thriving looks like to him, Jason says that thriving is "finding the right balance of work achievements and having time to enjoy family while watching my kids grow up." He adds that he has grown to appreciate the family experiences more and more over the past few years.

Jason's older brother, Ryan, was diagnosed with ALS in 2016. "He had always been the big brother I looked up to while growing up, and I was especially impressed with his strength and demeanor through his battle with ALS." Jason says that Ryan lived life to its fullest and maintained a positive attitude as his body slowly lost the battle to ALS over four years. He passed away in February 2020. "During his ALS journey it brought our family even closer together and we learned to cherish the moments we had with one another," he says.

One of the core values at the company where Jason works is, "Do what is right, always." This is a work expectation that Jason has quickly aligned with his faith. He says he relies on this statement when working on a complex project. "My faith helps provide the patience and calmness to work through difficult solutions with clients, and to empathize with the added stress that they must be feeling when making tough decisions," he tells us. It is also a wonderful reminder outside of work and a value that Jason has applied as much as he can in all aspects of his life.

Thank you, Jason, for all you do at Peace, for your family, and your clients. Thank you, too, for reminding us to do what is right, always.

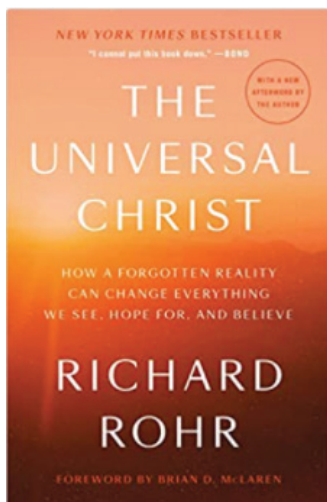


Jason Tofteland

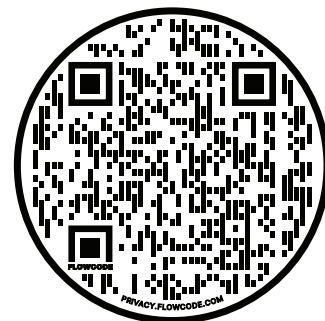
Vocation  
Faith in Daily Life

Just as we were easing into Thanksgiving and looking forward to a “more normal Advent,” the news of Omicron filled the air. “Not again!”— could be heard everywhere.

After plans were made, remade and disrupted and remade again, all the months of masking, social distancing, the grudging acceptance of a “different way of being church,” we were thrown back on our heels wondering, “What next?” All of which suggests that it is time to stop the “planning and re-planning.” It is time to cease the longing backward glances at what was. It is time to move forward and look toward the opportunities God presents us.



One place to start: according to a recent Pew Research Report, (<https://pewrsr.ch/3rWvhlW>) most Americans say they have spent time in the past year thinking about big questions like the meaning of life, whether there is any purpose to suffering, and why bad things happen to people. Nearly a quarter of U.S. adults (23%) say they have mulled over these topics “a lot.”



QR code link to  
Pew Research report

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This Lent we are going to mull over those ultimate questions that “a lot” of people have on their minds using **Richard Rohr’s *The Universal Christ... how a forgotten reality can change everything we see, hope for, and believe.*** Small groups will start in February.

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## A New Year’s Resolution

We often make great new year’s resolutions, and many are focused on health. A great way to improve your spiritual health is by spending time in God’s Word. What if this new year you start by reading the Gospel of John?

John’s Gospel will give you a portrait of Jesus that is both engaging and profound. By identifying Jesus as the light of the world and good shepherd, the Gospel gives readers accessible ways to begin thinking about who Jesus is while inviting them to go deeper. In this way, you will continue growing in your understanding of who Jesus is and what it means to be related to God through him.

John’s Gospel begins with a poetic introduction that places the story of Jesus within the broader story of the Word of God. A word is a form of communication, and as John tells the story, it stresses how God speaks to the world through Jesus. As you read, you will find that Jesus communicates the will of God by the words he speaks, by the miracles he performs, by the death he dies in love for others, and by rising to life.

### Suggested reading the week of...

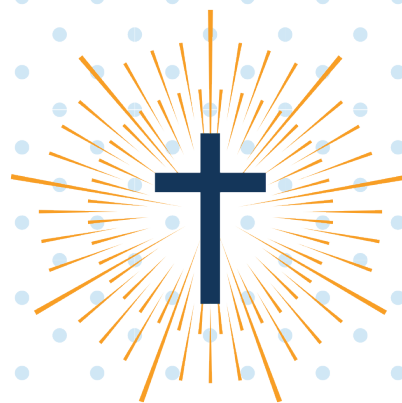
January 2, John 1

January 9, John 2

January 16, John 3

January 23, John 4:1-45

January 30, John 4:46-5:47



# Operation Bootstrap Africa



## Olchoki Lunch Program-Disaster Relief

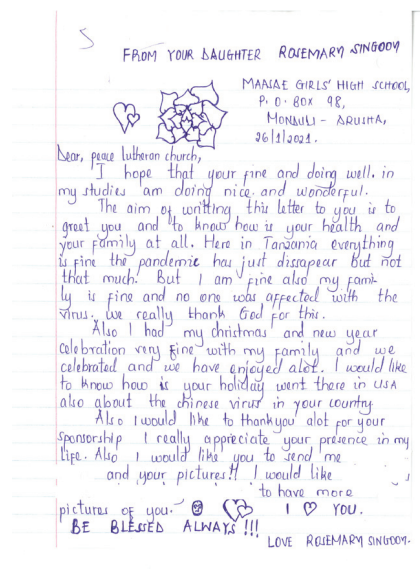
Olchoki Primary School in Northern Tanzania serves approximately 1,400 children. Classes run from 7:00 am-3:00 pm each day. In January 2020, Operation Bootstrap Africa started a program that feeds all of the students and staff lunch that otherwise would very likely not get even one satisfying meal a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

OBA purchases and provides maize, beans, and rice for up to all students every regularly scheduled school day (the youngest students only stay at school for half-days to help with class size) while the parents and staff at Olchoki source cooks and cooking supplies (such as matches and oil) from their communities. We appreciate these parents and all they do for their children; however, since the onset of COVID-19, many families have become incapable of paying their entire portion.

### OBA Proposal:

- Provide ½ of Parent Portion (\$650 a month (0.90 cents per parent)) for the Olchoki Lunch Program. Total budget: \$7,800

**A letter recieved from a student Peace sponsors. It took a year to get here!**



## Homebound Ministries

There are always people who have a challenging time getting out of their homes. Peace Lutheran is thankful for the dedicated team reaching out to that group of folks that are a part of our congregation.

If you, or someone you know of, would be blessed by being included in this ministry, please email [peace@peaceofplymouth.org](mailto:peace@peaceofplymouth.org).

One of the beautiful things that happened again this year at Christmas was a "Christmas card ministry." At Peaceful Nights on Dec. 15, we wrote cards for Peace people... drew pictures, and wrote well wishes.



# Updates and Notices

## No Peaceful Nights

on January 5

## Second Sunday treats

Sunday, January 10

## Budget meeting

Sunday, Jan. 23

10:00am

## Annual meeting

Sunday, Jan. 30

10:00 am

## Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 2

## Lent

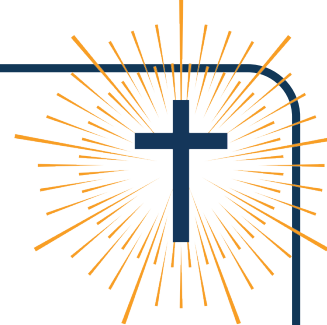
Wednesday, March 2 - Thursday, April 14

## Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 10

## Easter

Sunday, April 17



## "Sing We All Noel" 2021 Christmas Pageant



### 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



**PEACE**  
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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

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Plymouth, MN 55446-2907

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Sunday, Jan. 23**

Church Budget meeting  
10:00 am

**Sunday, Jan. 30**

Annual meeting  
10:00 am



## All Are Welcome Here

*Invite Your Family & Friends*

### "Sing We All Noel" 2021 Christmas Pageant



## SUNDAY MORNING

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

9:45 am —Fellowship & Education



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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