



Peace Notes

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH, MINNESOTA

Volume 26, Issue 4 April 2021

ALLELUIA, JESUS IS RISEN!

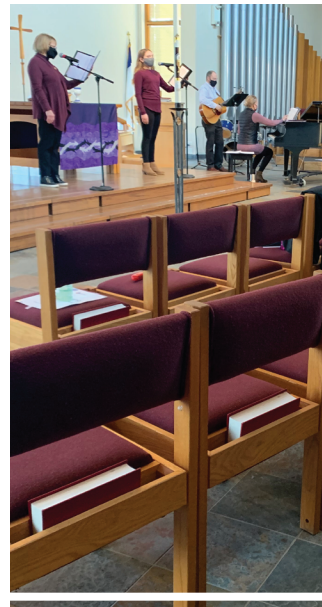


Pastor Jason Lukis

GUEST PREACHER, Pastor Jason Lukis April 11th

Jason, an ELCA pastor, rostered in the Minneapolis Synod, has a long connection to Peace Lutheran Church through his family. One of Jason's favorite stories from the Bible is about Thomas the disciple after Jesus' resurrection, a story told in John 20:19-29.

Join our April 11th worship as Jason shares God's love with us through preaching and song.



JOIN IN-PERSON WORSHIP!

You are invited to come and worship in the sanctuary.

How to worship in-person at Peace Lutheran:

- 1** Sign up if you are able at [Signup.com](https://signup.com).
- 2** Wear a mask or two.
- 3** Enter the building & sanitize your hands.
- 4** Find a place to sit; pews are labeled.



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

SPREADING GOD'S LOVE THROUGH ART

A conversation with Ilene Forde by Sylvi Leppa

God gives each and every one of us amazing gifts, whether the gifts are good knitting skills, good conversation skills, or being a good leader. However, it can sometimes be hard to combine your gifts with spreading God's love. There is a resident artist here at Peace who has found a great way to spread the love of God through her art. Ilene Forde makes it her mission to lift people up with her art in making cards displaying her artwork and writing to people who are having troubles.

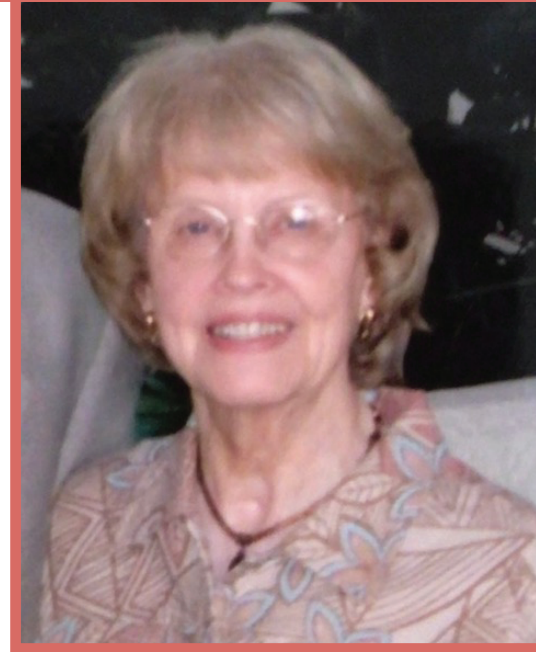
When I interviewed her over the phone, Ilene told me that she didn't start painting until she was about forty-five years old and already married. Before then, she had received recognition for a few projects that she had done in school but hadn't really taken an interest in art before then. One day, Ilene's aunt came to visit. She had just learned how to paint and was eager to share her new passion with her niece. She took out a vase of flowers, and together they painted it on large slabs of cardboard. After that, Ilene took some art lessons to refine her skills. At that time, she was doing many still-life paintings and landscapes with oil paints and did some rosemaling, a type of painting that originates from Norway and is mainly done on wood. She recalled that she would paint on any kind of wood that she could find in the house.



Sometime later, it was discovered that many of the oil paints that she had used were toxic, so she switched over to acrylics. Currently, Ilene enjoys making her art with lots of different mediums but says that she enjoys oils and acrylics as always and watercolors and watercolor pencils. She has even been using some glitter paints lately!

Ilene says that painting and art have strengthened her faith by giving her a brighter outlook on life and encouraging her to share the love of God with other people. She has always felt that God is with her and there for her, no matter what.

In talking about the people she sends cards to, Ilene said: "God walks with them always, no matter how difficult." In times like these, we all need someone to remind us of that, and Ilene definitely does that through her art.



Ilene Forde

UPCOMING LITURGIES

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) Setting four by Ronald Nelson has been our liturgy all of Lent and continues through April 11.

A Liturgy for Earthkeeping April 18 - May 9. Originally written by Hans Peterson and Larry Olson for Luther College in Decorah, IA, this worship service is a joyful reminder of God's love for all creation and God's commandment for humans to care for creation.

Healthy Relationships take B-R-A-V-I-N-G

Using the acronym BRAVING, Brené Brown outlines the seven elements of trust. Trust is essential for a healthy relationship with God, others, and ourselves. How might you use the BRAVING code in your relationship with family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, bosses, direct-reports, fellow students, and teachers?

Boundaries | You respect my boundaries, and when you're not clear about what's okay and not okay, you ask. You're willing to say no.

Reliability | You do what you say you'll do. At work, this means staying aware of your competencies and limitations, so you don't over-promise and can deliver on commitments and balance competing priorities.

Accountability | You own your mistakes, apologize, and make amends.

Vault | You don't share information or experiences that are not yours to share. I need to know that my confidence is kept and that you're not sharing with me any information about other people that should be confidential.

Integrity | You choose courage over comfort. You choose what is right over what is fun, fast, or easy. And you choose to practice your values rather than simply professing them.

Nonjudgement | I can ask for what I need, and you can ask for what you need. We can talk about how we feel without judgment.

Generosity | You extend the most generous interpretation possible to others' intentions, words, and actions.



OPERATION BOOTSTRAP AFRICA UPDATES

Madagascar Feeding Program

OBA supports five schools in Madagascar, all of which have been experiencing an extreme drought and famine. Jason, OBA's Executive Director, learned late last year that students at the schools we support were dying of hunger. In response, the board started a feeding program at the school that involved getting food shipped all the way from the north of the island. The food has buffered malnutrition in students and increased the students' attendance at school.

To learn more, check out: <https://bootstrapafrica.org/project/special-projects/>

Healthcare Needs

OBA supports a Nursing School in Tanzania by decreasing tuition costs. Nurses are the only healthcare professionals many Tanzanians will ever see. Many more are needed, and the cost of education is one of the barriers. In February, OBA increased tuition support by 50%.

To learn more, check out: <https://bootstrapafrica.org/project/funding-healthcare-training-and-healthcare-projects/>

Education for Girls

The most significant percentage of the OBA budget goes to the Maasai Girls Lutheran Secondary School (MGLSS). After schools reopened from COVID shutdowns, many of the girls did not return. Why? In this Africa region, fathers receive payments from the suitor's family when their daughters are married. With the economic hardships caused by COVID tourism shutdowns, younger girls are being sold into marriage at increasing rates. Scholarships allow the girls to stay in school and remain safe. Thank you to all who are supporting one of these girls. There are still 30 Form 1 students who have not been sponsored.

To learn more, check out: <https://bootstrapafrica.org/sponsor-a-student/>

FAITH IN DAILY LIFE

By Joni Sutton

This month's featured member who is living her vocation is Diane Johnson, who resides in Corcoran. She, her husband, Jeff, and their two children (Brandon and Anne) joined Peace in 1981. Both Brandon and Anne were confirmed at Peace, and both were also married at our church.

Diane grew up in Hopkins, Minnesota, and married her high school sweetheart. She worked at the University of Minnesota hospital labs for almost twenty-five years as a lab technician. In 1997 she left the hospital and began working in the office of Jeff's plumbing business in Long Lake. They enjoyed working together, and she loved having the flexibility to be close to home and to her children. She has been retired for a few years now, and her son-in-law is running the business.

Diane's mother was a very talented knitter, and she would knit beautiful projects (that Diane says she still would not tackle). She also was a seamstress and made a lot of the clothes that Diane and her sisters wore. Diane inherited a love of knitting and sewing from her mother, and she thinks of her often while knitting and sewing. "I wish I could show her my projects," says Diane.

With Diane's skills as a knitter and seamstress, she gives her time and talent for the "Bundles of Love" charity in which Peace participates. "Bundles of Love" is a non-profit organization that delivers homemade items to newborns in Minnesota where there is a need. Diane enjoys knitting caps and sewing clothes and accessories that go into a bundle of necessities for families short on essentials. Diane encourages others to become involved in this project by contacting Phyllis Bopp or herself. Until Covid-19 struck, the group met at church once per month. You can learn more about this organization at bundlesoflove.org.



Another project that Diane participates in is keeping the planters near the church doors filled with plants for each season (she does this with Peace member Suzanne Oxley). When Diane's husband, Jeff, passed away from cancer in 2011, a group of her church friends donated the planters in his memory. "This is a special labor of love for me," she says. We have all enjoyed the beauty of these planters as we enter the building – thank you, Diane and Suzanne!

Diane has served our congregation in many other ways as well: she has served on Peace's youth committee, she serves communion, sews quilt tops for Peace's quilting group, and has served on the church council as Treasurer. Like her mother, she has also knit baptismal and prayer shawls for Peace.

Diane says, "I am grateful to have a church community of friends that I love and have been a part of for so many years." Diane, we at Peace are grateful to have you as a part of our community. Thank you for sharing your talents not only with us but also with the recipients of your knitting and quilting projects!



Diane Johnson

Vocation
Faith in Daily Life

TIE BLANKET SERVICE PROJECT Sunday, April 18, 2021

The Confirmation class had so much fun with the garden service project last year that they wanted to plan another service project that anyone can participate in. We are going to make tie fleece blankets for House of Charity <https://www.houseofcharity.org/>. There is a sign-up on the Peace website so that we can plan on how many people we will have joining the fun and determine the amount of fleece we will need. We will have two options: you can participate at church in a safe environment or pick up the materials at church, make them at home, and bring them back to church. This is a great way to help the community and have fun at the same time.

*If you have any questions, please contact
Deb Weir at debweir@comcast.net or 612-296-5530.*

House of
Charity
the heart of the city



STAFFING UPDATE: MATERNITY LEAVE

Peace's Minister of Music, Stefanie Fiser Kleven, is going on maternity leave from April 12 through May 31. Peace is very excited for her and her family, and we are holding them all in our prayers! Baby Boy Kleven #2 is due on April 24.

Phil Mennicke will be the interim Minister of Music. Stef and Phil worked together at Stef's former congregation, House of Prayer Lutheran Church in Richfield. Phil will cover many of Stef's duties for planning music in worship and scheduling singers and instrumentalists. We look forward to having him here! Phil and Stef will cantor together for worship on April 11, Stef's last Sunday, where we will also do a blessing of Stef.

Part of Stef's role we still need help with is the Children, Youth, and Family Ministry. Please consider being a reader on the Wednesday night children's ministry zoom. Visit our website and watch the Saturday Peace e-News for signup details.

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

It has been so long since we could all be in the Sanctuary SINGING together. This has been one of the hardest parts of the pandemic for some of us.

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!

SEEING WHITE PODCAST REFLECTIONS

Learning, Growing, Connecting

Group participants: Lisa Lukis, Janelle Leppa, Joni Sutton, Inger Trooien, Heidi Ferris

Lisa: In the **Seeing White podcast**, Episode 6, philosopher Shannon Sullivan talks about "good white people" who think they are immune from racism because of political correctness, northern geography, politics, etc. My faith challenges me to see how I am party to the sin of racism and that I am not such a good white person. Listening to this podcast has opened my eyes to the long history of advantages that I have received because I am white. In contrast, my neighbors who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color have not been treated equally. I seek to repent and turn from my baked-in beliefs to understand race in a straightforward way, where policies, resources, regulations, and education can be shaped so that each person can be cared for.

Janelle: This year, I have spent time more than ever before trying to reconcile "God loves us just as we are" with God's commandment for us to love our neighbor. God commands us to not turn our backs in indifference to the suffering and pain of our neighbor, even when it makes us uncomfortable. While learning more about the overwhelming history of racial injustice that has gotten us to today has been emotionally challenging for me, I have found that leaning into God's love and grace is helping me to avoid getting stuck in shame or despair. God is truly here with us in our struggle to learn how we can do better in our quest to truly love our neighbors.

Episode 13, White Affirmative Action, was the most eye-opening for me as I discovered that I was severely lacking in my awareness of the significant assistance that was given to, and limited to, people with white skin.

Heidi: Jesus loves us no matter what. The stories in **Seeing White**, combined with scripture and conversation with other Christian women, helped me to: lean into the discomfort of injustices, feel God's love, experience grace, and move new knowledge to positive actions in my life.

ART CONTEST



To
volunteer, nurture nature, join the team,
play outside and enjoy Creation...
connect through PeaceofPlymouth.org

As the weather warms, you are invited to warm up your creativity muscles — color, paint, or paper mache this Peace gardening picture for fun and a possible prize.

Categories:

PreK, K-3rd grade, 4th-7th grade, 8th grade, and up

Name: _____
Age Category: _____
Phone Number: _____

To Enter:

Scan and e-mail to peace@peaceofplymouth.org

Drop at church on Easter Sunday

Mail to Peace Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 416, Hanover, MN 55341

Prize:

Easter Basket for each age level

Due: Thursday, April 8

Updates and Notices

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

All worship services offer the option of worshipping either in person or online streaming.

Palm Sunday, March 28, 9:00 am

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 7:00 pm

Good Friday, April 2, 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday, April 4, 9:00 am



Interfaith Outreach
Igniting the power of community

INTERFAITH OUTREACH COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Through Peace Lutheran's benevolence budget and additional gifts made by members, Peace donated almost \$10,000 to the work of Interfaith Outreach in 2020.

Thank you for your generosity!

Easter Egg Hunt & IOCP Donation Collection

Sunday, March 28th, 11:00am

Blanket Service Project

A project for all ages.
Sunday, April 18

Art Contest

See inside on page 6 for details.
Deadline: Thursday, April 8

Earth Day Worship

Sunday, April 25, 9:00 am

Blessing of Bikes

Sunday, May 9, 10:00 am

To reach the church office,
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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P.O. Box 416 Hanover, MN 55341
763.478.9406
peace@peaceofplymouth.org
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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.

**Temporary Mailing Address:****Peace Lutheran Church**

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Peaceofplymouth.org

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Plymouth, MN 55446-2907

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**Easter Service**

Sunday, April 4, 9:00 am

Worship at Peace either
streaming online or in-person.**All Are Welcome Here***Invite Your Family & Friends***WE ARE
PEACE LUTHERAN****LIBRARY OF LOVE****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**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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