



# Peace Notes

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH, MINNESOTA

Volume 26, Issue 3 March 2021

## LENT 2021

Peace is reading the Gospel of Luke and Brene Brown's best selling book ***Rising Strong: the reckoning, the rumble, and the revolution***. If we are brave enough, often enough, we will fall. This is a book about what it takes to get back up, with sermons looking at ***Rising Strong*** through the lens of Jesus' love.

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



### ***Rising Strong* Guest Preacher: Pastor Jules Erickson**

The Rev. Dr. Jules Erickson serves as Senior Pastor at All Saints Lutheran in Cottage Grove, MN. Her ministry is focused on helping people live healthy, happy, non-anxious, and well-balanced lives. Pastor Jules is a Trained Facilitator in The Daring Way™, and Rising Strong™ Curricula developed by Brené Brown, LICSW, Ph.D. She enjoys laughing, preaching, teaching, Crossfit, good food, and people of every age.

**Pastor Erickson will be preaching in worship on March 21.**

## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

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

# RISING STRONG ... A THEOLOGY OF LAW AND GOSPEL



Talking about race and injustice is uncomfortable, and we seek gospel and comfort in these places of pain. At the same time, Jesus said, "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Martin Luther taught from the Bible how law and the gospel are the centers of Christianity. Law means being committed to the truth of our actions now and historically. Gospel is the free, unearned love of Jesus given to all. Even our faith is a gift given to us through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Martin Luther also taught how the law and the gospel go together. When we don't acknowledge the truth about how we have fallen short (our sin), grace is no longer a gift we falsely think we deserve because we earned it. For hundreds of years, America has hidden the truth of black slavery and indigenous lands being stolen. Still today, white privilege is impacting our national systems--we have and are falling short.

These truths are hard to hear and learn. It is into this space of discomfort that God's grace and our church community meets us, comforts us, and empowers us to be the change God seeks in the world. Jesus' rising strong on Easter empowers us to try again. Jesus' grace empowers us to get back up. Jesus' love moves us to see the truth, make amends and do better for the sake of all God's children.

Christ's Peace,

Pastor Kjell

## 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

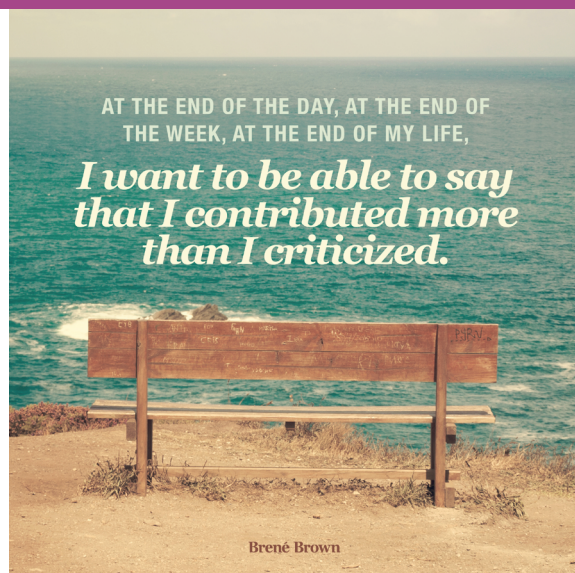
The Rich Man and Lazarus  
*Luke 16:19-31*

**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.

## “HOW CAN I HELP?” NIGHT

**A Re-invented Monthly Committee Night**  
**7:00 pm - First Tuesday of Every Month**

The new year brought with it a new format for monthly Committee Night at Peace! The first virtual Committee Night was held on Tuesday, February 2. Eighteen members of Peace joined together on Zoom to share committee current events and brainstorm ways the new online format could be used to increase communication, share ideas, organize volunteers and recapture the collaborative energy that a large-group committee night provides.

The first Tuesday of the month is not limited to only committee members. All individuals wondering “How Can I Help?” are invited to login to participate in a group devotional, hear updates from each committee, share ideas for future planning, and learn about short-term volunteer needs. Peace will use SignUp.com, an online sign-up tool, to organize a variety of volunteer ministries. Watch the weekly emails for links to our SignUp.com group page and this month's Committee Night Zoom link. Mark your calendar. The next meeting is on Tuesday, March 2 at 7:00 pm!

## HOW DO WE DECIDE WHEN TO WORSHIP IN PERSON?

**By Dan Anderson, Infectious Disease Doctor & Member of Peace Lutheran Council**

We all want to get back into the church soon and safely. Expert recommendations, actions of others in our community, differences in the consequences of COVID for different people, varying degrees of willingness to take risks, and the sense of urgency to get back into the church – these are all considerations in our plan to restart in-person worship. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and the ELCA have all published guidelines to help us. These guidelines evolve as more is learned about COVID-19 and as viral activity changes.

There is a continuum of risk – no plan for reopening has zero chance. Risk levels change over time as disease activity changes and as people get vaccinated. We are able to modify strategies of response to risk as we learn more about the virus. Group risk is different from individual risk, and people calculate risks differently. Together we decide what risk is acceptable when restarting in-person worship. Individuals also must decide for themselves how much risk they are willing to accept by coming to church, always acknowledging that we all have different levels of risk acceptance and aversion. Our plan needs input from and support from all of us.

## West Suburban Grief Coalition Update

Since the COVID-19 shutdown, the WSGC has moved to Zoom Meetings. Separate Zoom meetings are held by multiple Spouse Loss Groups, a Child Loss Group, and a Family Loss Group. Once per month, they have a speaker on Zoom that speaks on relevant grief subject to the entire membership.

WSGC believes in its mission “to provide caring grief support and education for all adults who are grieving the death of a loved one.” While previously the Coalition had all its members meet every week with a speaker at a church, given the changes caused by COVID-19, the Coalition is still moving forward with its mission. They want you to be aware they are still accepting referrals for people who have lost a loved one and seek grief support along those lines.

For questions and referrals, you can reach the Coalition Director, Alva Benson, at 763-545-1108 or Harley Feldman, Coalition Coordinator, at 612-840-1774. Please feel free to call at any time. You can also keep up with the latest information about the Coalition on their website at <https://westsuburgriefmn.org>



# FAITH IN DAILY LIFE

By Joni Sutton

In the Book of Galatians, Paul writes, “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” This month we are featuring Peace member Dr. Dan Anderson, an infectious disease doctor who does not “grow weary of doing good.” Dan lives his vocation as an Infectious Disease consultant with Abbott Northwestern General Medical Associates, as a Hospital Epidemiologist for Abbott Northwestern Hospital (ANW) as well as being affiliated with the Internal Medicine residency training program at ANW.

Dan sees his vocation as being a helper. He helps patients manage their infection problems, he helps other doctors with difficult infection questions, and he helps medical students and resident physicians to learn the art of infectious diseases. He also helps hospital administrations address infection control issues and responses to community infection problems like the pandemic. When asked what the joys of his vocation are, Dan says that he enjoys puzzles and mysteries, such as solving Sudoku puzzles or reading Sherlock Holmes stories, and that “the work of infectious diseases to me is like a mystery, a treasure hunt and a multi-dimensional puzzle all in one. Every patient’s infection problem is unique, a new challenge, a new puzzle to be solved.” He adds that when a person is very ill but responds to treatment and regains good health, it is something he will never tire of seeing. As for challenges to his vocation, he feels frustration when a person does not respond well to treatment or refuses to follow the recommended treatment. “Seeing a person succumb to an infection is very difficult to accept.”



Dan Anderson

Dan says he draws inspiration from music, from tradition, and others on his faith journey. “Observing what others do and are capable of doing motivates me to try to do the same,” he says. When asked about how faith connects with his vocation, he says that he witnesses tremendous strength by seeing people at very vulnerable times in their lives. “I see how their faith gives them the strength to endure their health-related struggles.” He adds that his faith helps him try to make sense of what he sees and reassures him that though he may sometimes fail to heal his patients, God’s healing powers never fail. While growing up in Austin, Minnesota, Dan heard his mother play church hymns on the piano every day. From this, music became an integral part of his worship and faith experience. “Growing up in the church and holding onto traditions reminds me of all the things that helped me feel that I belonged in my faith community as a child, and also reminds me that I still belong now.”

When asked what thriving is to him, he says that seeing those around him – his family, patients, and colleagues – being happy, healthy, and content. “I feel as if I thrive if I see those around me thrive.”

Dan, his wife Holly, and their two children joined our congregation at Peace in 1997. Over the years, they have helped with Sunday School, Families Moving Forward, communion assistants, and as offering counters. Dan served on the church council and is currently on the council again. He looks forward to singing in the church choir once again when we can safely do so.

As noted above, the Apostle Paul implores us to continue to do good and tells us not to give up. Dan, we are very grateful for your excellent work, your help in your profession, and at Peace, and we appreciate knowing that you won’t give up!

Vocation  
Faith in Daily Life

# Updates and Notices

## COVID UPDATES

### In-person Worship

When this newsletter is going to press (mid-February), the council and staff, with input from the congregation, are planning for a limited number of people to attend worship. Go to [peaceofplymouth.org](http://peaceofplymouth.org) to sign up.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts.

~Peace Lutheran Council

### In-person Holy Communion

On Wednesdays, during Lent (February 24 - March 24), Pastor Kjell will be at the church from 4-6 pm for drive-thru communion. No need to preregister; just give a little "honk" when you get to the door. You are also welcome to enter the building and receive communion in the Sanctuary.

### Every Member Calls

Over the last year, Peace has made calls to members. If you or someone you know has not gotten a call, please let us know by emailing [peace@peaceofplymouth.org](mailto:peace@peaceofplymouth.org)

### Easter Flowers

We will once again be decorating the sanctuary with beautiful spring flowers for Easter.

Please watch the Saturday e-News for details. Orders will be placed using our new SignUp.com group page.

## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

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

### To reach the church office,

please email [peace@peaceofplymouth.org](mailto:peace@peaceofplymouth.org) or call 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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[www.peaceofplymouth.org](http://www.peaceofplymouth.org)

## 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.



**Temporary Mailing Address:**

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**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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