



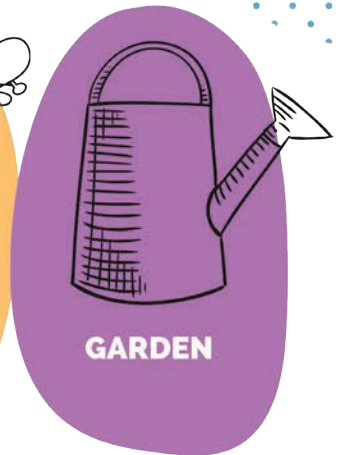
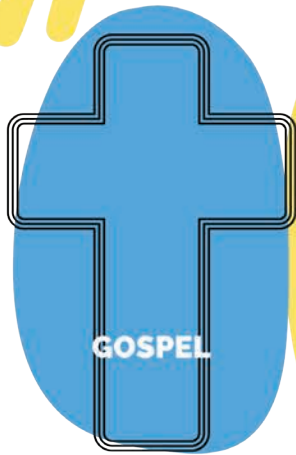
Peace Notes

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH, MINNESOTA

Volume 26, Issue 5 May

5G SUMMER

Connect at Peace Lutheran



Everyone can join in the fun this summer with the 5G's: Gospel, Gather, Games, Guitar, Garden. Outside we'll hang out, connect, and try some organized activities throughout the summer... always celebrating playing together and sharing the love of Jesus.

How would you like to participate?

Do you have a favorite game, art project, song, or garden story?

Gospel: centered in the love of Jesus, we'll gather for worship

Gather: after worship, connect with new and old friends

Game: new equipment for playing outside and having fun with organized group games

Guitar: bring your guitar after worship to share, learn and sing songs

Garden: nourish creation and spirit through one of Peace's gardens

May 2, 10 am

Peace Garden & Grounds Cleanup - join the Property Committee in getting Peace's grounds ready for summer. Bring your garden tools and gloves to worship and stay to join the fun.

May 23, 10 am

Rain Garden Planting - join the confirmation students as they teach about the native plants in Peace's rain garden and invite you to help them plant a few more.

June 6, 10 am

New Games Ribbon Cutting - Peace is getting many new outdoor games and toys for after worship!

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

Library of Love Gets New Books

Thanks to a Thrivent grant, Peace's Library of Love got 20 new books from Birchbark Books. The books focus on better understanding where we live, learning about the history of this place we call Minnesota and connecting to Native American experiences today through story and art. Birchbark Books is owned by Minnesota's award-winning author Louise Erdrich, who shares this idea on love: *"Love won't be tampered with, love won't go away. Push it to one side, and it creeps to the other."*-- Louise Erdrich

All are welcome to check out the books, share a book review, and/or recommend more for the collection!

Welcome, Phil Mennicke!

Greetings, Peace Lutheran! I am thrilled to have the honor of stepping in as your Minister of Music for Stef while she tends to that little matter of giving birth!

A little bit about me, my background, and how this connection came to pass... I spent 13 years as Director of Worship & Music at House of Prayer Lutheran Church in Richfield. This nearly full-time position was eliminated last summer due to the devastating effects the church's budget suffered as a result of Covid-19 (perhaps you've heard of it). You may know that Stef also worked there for several years early in my time there. We developed a wonderful personal and professional relationship that has continued to the present day, so I was excited about this opportunity to fill a little gap for her and the church. I possess a passion for quality, meaningful worship, particularly how music can and should help bring that to life - never as a "show" but as an enhancement to the smooth and clear presentation of the message. I take great joy in throwing in little wrinkles - often subtle, sometimes a bit more "apparent," that play a part in "telling the story" in more compelling ways. That said, I fully acknowledge that my role in my brief time at Peace is not to re-invent any wheels. I am perfectly content serving as a "placeholder" to sustain what is a wonderfully thriving worship environment led by Stef, Anne, Pastor Kjell, and others (i.e., making sure the building is still standing when Stef returns to the fold....).

I appreciate so much the warm and welcoming attitude I have already received so far - I look forward very much to meeting and working with anyone and everyone at Peace!



Phil Mennicke



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 2020, Peace Lutheran began exercising a different “faith muscle” every four months.

- **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.
- **January through April**
we turned our attention toward the community.

Faith Practice: Food - *Eating With Jesus*

Food has long been a means for building community. Amid the pandemic, our patterns around sharing a meal together have radically changed. What new patterns around food have you developed? How have these new patterns influenced your faith?

Over the next four months, Peace will revisit some old food faith practices and try out some new ones, seeking to build community and live out Jesus' invitation, “all who are thirsty, come and drink.”

Camp Amnicon Partnership

Camp Amnicon, located on the South Shore of Lake Superior, has its mission to welcome everyone into unique experiences of community and adventure, equipping people to step outside their comfort zones and experience God's grace. This summer, Camp Amnicon is leading two trips for Peace Lutheran.

Outdoor Skills on Medicine Lake Day Trip

Monday, August 2, 9am-3pm | Ages 8+

Trip Description: Enjoy the simplicity and beauty of flatwater lake paddling, and learn water skills like fire building, campfire cooking, primitive shelters, nature identification, and more! You'll get to explore parts of French Park that you just can't get to on foot. Learning, playing, and exploring together is an excellent way for your group to bond and grow.

Overnight Namekagon Scenic Riverway Tour

August 2-7 Ages 11+

Trip Description: The Namekagon River is a peaceful river with beautiful scenery and is absolutely TEEMING with wildlife. Groups regularly see sturgeon, eagles, otters, and so many turtles. Each day you'll paddle on calm, crystalline waters. Each evening you'll set up camp, enjoy dinner cooked over a fire, and connect about life and God as the sun sets behind the trees. You'll see just how rich life can be, how deep the bonds of friendship can go, and how awesome God's grace is.

Registration can be found at www.peaceofplymouth.org.



FAITH IN DAILY LIFE

By Joni Sutton

Life is a balancing act for many, if not most, of us. This month's featured Peace member, Jennifer Stoffel, balances her busy life while living her vocation at home, at work, and church.

Born in Holmen, Wisconsin, Jennifer, her husband (Mike), became a member of Peace in 2004. They have two children: Madison, 19, and Ty, 16. You may have seen Jennifer teaching Sunday School, forming meatballs for Peace's spaghetti dinner fundraisers, or ringing her bells in the adult handbell choir. Recently, she has been serving on the congregation's Vision Team.

Most of us don't see Jennifer's busy life as a pharmacist employed by Johnson & Johnson. In her role with the company, she is part of a field-based team that works with health decision-makers within health plans and large hospital systems. Her primary responsibilities involve having discussions and answering questions about Johnson & Johnson medications, including the COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, she serves as a team lead for topics related to J&J's products within infectious disease and vaccines. She also helps coordinate team training and development of educational resources used by the broader team at Johnson & Johnson. When asked how her faith connects with her vocation, she says, "I feel that being a person of faith has helped me to have more empathy and be able to see things from multiple points of view." She says that there are challenges to working in the pharmaceutical industry. "Many times, there are no answers to the questions being asked. You also have visibility to the gaps in the healthcare system, many related to cost, which can be frustrating." She admits that she may not always know how a decision within the health care setting can impact everyone involved, but she does feel reassured that she knows to ask the critical questions.

Jennifer's job keeps her on the move, and she logs many miles in the air, and more recently, many hours on Zoom! Before the pandemic, she frequently came to handbell rehearsal on Wednesday nights directly from the airport and has even been known to drive to Plymouth for rehearsal during a layover between flights. She says that being a part of the handbell choir is one of her favorite parts of being a member of Peace. "Certain pieces can be quite challenging, but the satisfaction of beautiful performance can be quite uplifting," she says.

When asked what thriving looks like to her, Jennifer says that it means finding a balance between work and the things that bring her joy. "It is easy to get bogged down with tasks that need to be completed, but I make sure to find time to be outdoors and enjoy God's creation, and also to find time to interact with friends and family," she explains. Thank you, Jennifer, for all you do in all areas of your vocation: at work, at home, and in your church!



Jen, Mike, Madison & Ty Stoffel



Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

Peace Lutheran Church is part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). The ELCA is made up of about 10,000 congregations and 3.8 million members held together by mission, vision, and values.

ELCA mission

Together in Jesus Christ, we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully.

ELCA vision

A world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ makes for all people and creation.

ELCA values are grounded in faith, in our biblical and Lutheran confessional sources, and our love of God and neighbor. They speak to the way this church lives and practices our faith, and they will guide how we journey forward in Christ as a church together.

Dignity, Compassion, and Justice – Each person is created in God's image. We respect this God-given right to dignity and, inspired by the life of Jesus, show love and compassion for all people. Through the proclamation of the gospel, through worship, and as servants of God working for healing and justice in the world, we uphold and seek to protect all people's dignity and human rights.

EASTER 2021



Peace held an Easter Egg hunt on Palm Sunday.

We had lots of Peace kids and visitors enjoying the fun!

Palm Sunday was also a time for food donations and monies to IOCP's Prevent Hunger campaign that ran from March - April 16, 2021.

Campaign contributions of money, partnership, and food shelf items enable Interfaith Outreach to strengthen its wrap-around approach to preventing hunger in the community. Our support not only provides access to nutritious, culturally appropriate, and hard-to-find food shelf items, it enables them to provide a range of employment and family support services that set people on the path to new and hopeful futures.

Peace gave a total of \$9,095 to IOCP last year. \$6,095.00 was donated from members who designated their gifts for IOCP and \$3,000.00 from the congregation's benevolence budget.



CONFIRMATION SERVICE PROJECT

The confirmation students decided on a service project they wanted to work on and completed it on Sunday, April 18. Fleece tied blankets were created that will be donated to House of Charity in Minneapolis. They recruited some helpers and a total of 18 people worked to cut and tie the blankets. Nine blankets were made and another three are being made at home by some additional volunteers. The blankets were blessed in worship on Sunday, April 25 and delivered shortly after. Great Job! Thank you for your generosity.



Vaccines

by Dan Anderson, Infectious Disease Consultant & Hospital Epidemiologist

Spring is here. It has been more than a year since the first case of COVID-19 infection in Minnesota. We all want desperately to get back into the church, return to work and school, gather with friends and family, and resume doing the things we used to do. One of the best ways to do those things safely is to get a COVID-19 vaccine. They are proven safe, very effective, and are increasingly available to the majority of us.

Three vaccines are available in the US. Two (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna) make use of messenger RNA or mRNA technology. mRNA technology has been around for decades. Two doses of those vaccines are needed for full protection. The other vaccine uses the shell of a virus (altered to not replicate or cause an infection) to deliver the vaccine into cells (Johnson & Johnson/Janssen). A single dose of that vaccine is all that is needed.

With hundreds of millions of doses of vaccines delivered worldwide, their short-term safety and efficacy have been proven. Several scientific agencies continue to track and monitor for evidence that might arise in the future of long-term adverse vaccine consequences. There still is much to learn about these vaccines. Will we need a booster? If so, when? Will vaccines be effective against virus mutants or variants?

Until the vast majority of the population is vaccinated, viral transmission is still occurring. The vaccines are 80-95 % effective ... but not 100 % effective. 80-95 % is still much, much better than zero %. After getting vaccinated, expert guidance suggests we can gather together in homes with others also vaccinated without wearing masks or distancing. Domestic travel is considered safe without pre- or post-travel testing or quarantine. It is still recommended that those who have been vaccinated continue to wear masks and practice physical distancing if visiting persons are considered at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Even if vaccinated, it is still recommended that one not attend medium or large gatherings because the risk of potential exposure may be high in those settings, and 1 in 20 vaccinated persons can still get COVID.

Getting vaccinated, encouraging others to get vaccinated, continuing to wear masks, and physical distance are things we all can do safely and most quickly get back to doing the many things we all want to do.

May God be with us all and give us the strength to get through this pandemic.



Dan Anderson

Why get vaccinated?

- Vaccines dramatically lower the chance of the vaccinated person from getting COVID-19, from getting ill with COVID-19, or being hospitalized if still infected.
- By dramatically reducing the chance of the vaccinated person getting COVID-19, they also protect their family and friends from potentially catching COVID-19 from the vaccinated person.
- The greater the number of people who get vaccinated, the less the community's total burden. That means less virus replicating and mutating in the community, which will reduce the probability of more dangerous mutant viruses or variants arising by pure chance.
- Together with wearing masks, physically distancing, and washing hands, vaccination of the community helps to decrease the activity of the virus in the community so that we all can resume more of our "former" activities sooner and more safely.

What led to vaccines being developed so quickly?

- Scientists can map a virus's complete genetic information very rapidly. COVID-19's nucleic acid was fully mapped by January of 2020.
- Within weeks, scientists were able to identify which part of the genetic code was responsible for making the specific piece of the virus that could be used for vaccines.
- Within a month, the first vaccines were already manufactured and ready for testing.
- Each of the vaccine trials enlisted tens of thousands of participants within months since everyone on the planet was susceptible to COVID-19.
- With COVID-19, the frequency or rate of infection was so high; it was only a matter of months before there were enough exposures and infection opportunities to determine vaccine efficacy.

Updates and Notices

May 2, 10am	Peace Garden & Grounds Cleanup
May 23, 10 am	Planting in the Rain Garden with Confirmation Students
May 9	Mother's Day
June 6, 10 am	New Outdoor Games & Equipment
June 13, 9 am	First Outdoor Worship
June 13, 10 am	Blessing of the Bikes

Bible Readings for May

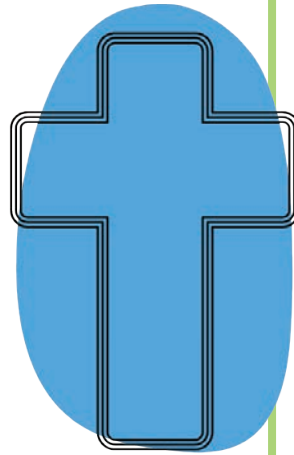
May 2: Acts 15: 1-11

May 9: Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-16

May 16: Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29

May 23: Acts 2:1-18

May 30: Galatians 4:1-7



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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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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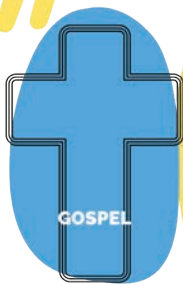
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Peace is open for in-person worship with a Sanctuary capacity of 60 people.

We will continue to offer online worship services as well. More info can be found at www.peaceofplymouth.org.

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**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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