



Peace Notes

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH, MINNESOTA

Volume 26, Issue 12, December 2021



Advent 2021

Jesus is born in our listening
Jesus is born in our looking
Jesus is born in our speaking
Jesus is born in our caring.

Jesus is coming! The words above are from this year's Christmas Pageant, "Sing We All Noel." Throughout the four weeks of Advent we will explore and discover how Jesus is born in each of us through God's love. We wait for Christmas together as we listen for love, look for love, speak with love, and care with love.

Sunday, November 28 - the Greening of the Church, 9 am

Sunday, December 5 - the Second Sunday of Advent, with Holy Communion, 9 am

Sunday, December 12 - CROSS+Generational Christmas Pageant, 9 am
"Sing We All Noel"

Sunday, December 19 - Music Festival, with Holy Communion, 9 am
"A Child is Born"

Friday, December 24 - Christmas Eve, Worship with Holy Communion, 4 pm

Sunday, December 26 - First Sunday of Christmas, 9 am
Guest preacher, Wayne Peterson

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

FAITH IN DAILY LIFE

By Joni Sutton

Stefanie Fiser Kleven, Minister of Music

“All God’s Creatures Have a Place in the Choir,” but who has a place in front of the choir? At Peace Lutheran, we are very fortunate to have a human dynamo up in front! This month we are featuring our Minister of Music, Stefanie Fiser Kleven, as a person who is living her vocation.

Stef was born in Littleton, Colorado, raised by a mother who sang in Lutheran church choirs and a father who played various musical instruments and worked as a church musician. In addition, Stef’s grandfather held college positions and church music jobs in various parts of the country. He taught voice, was a tenor soloist, choir director, and church choir director. Stef’s grandmother would teach children’s choirs wherever the couple lived. Clearly, falling into the role of a church musician must have seemed like the most natural thing in the world for Stefanie.

Having attended St. Olaf College, where she received a Bachelor of Science in Vocal Music, Stef has also taken graduate-level sacred and choral music classes at Luther Seminary and St. Thomas University. She was an active member of the National Lutheran Choir for thirteen consecutive years (2008-2021). She says that she has been exposed to a wide array of Lutheran music through her experiences in that ensemble. In 2016, after teaching high school choirs for a few years, Stef was hired at Peace Lutheran to be our Minister of Music when she wanted her life to take a different path. In addition to directing our Adult Choir and Children’s Music Ensembles, Stefanie works with Pastor Kjell to select liturgies and hymns and includes children and youth in musical aspects of worship. This year we have an ensemble called Youth Music (upper elementary and middle school-aged youth) and an ensemble called Music Workshop (elementary-aged kids). When the Adult Handbell Choir is missing a member, Stef will generously step in and become a guest ringer as well!

When asked what she feels is her primary vocation, she says she sees it as a shepherd of faith through music. “A while ago,” she explains, “I learned of the concept of faith being ‘caught not taught,’ and I hope that through my teaching and actions, people may be inspired in their own walks of faith.” Stef says that she is incredibly passionate about sharing the music of the church. She has found joy, solace, peace, and comfort in her own life through singing hymns and songs, and she strives to help others have similar exposures and experiences. “Any time I am sharing a song with someone - child or adult - there is a chance that they will get to share it with someone else in their future. To me, that is how ‘through the church, the song goes on’.”

Stef says that the most joyful moments of her vocation are when she has had a creative idea that has been a ‘success,’ either with a musical ensemble or by people having fun and participating in an activity. She enjoys the entire process – looking through hymnals, playing through music at the piano, making choices, deciding how to present and teach the music, rehearsing it, and finally, sharing it with the congregation. That said, her vocation has its challenges. It takes time to know people’s interests, commitment, and talents and to gain their trust. “As humans we are flawed by nature, ever since Eve and Adam ate the apple from the tree of knowledge,” she says. “We all make mistakes, and sometimes we hurt each other; I believe we are called to do our best trying to live Christ-like lives and bringing our struggles to God in prayer.”

Stef and her husband, Eric, married in 2017. They have two boys: Henry, 3 ½ and Leonard (six months) baptized at Peace. Only time will tell if these two lads follow the path of their mother, grandparents, and great-grandparents by making music in the church. In the meantime, we appreciate the work of our Minister of Music as she carries on the legacy of her parents and grandparents. Thank you, Stef!

***“From morn till set of sun, through the church the song goes on.”
from the lyrics of “Holy God We Praise Thy Name.”***



Stef, Eric, Henry and Leonard Kleven



AFGHAN REFUGEE SETTLEMENT UPDATE

Peace Lutheran signed a commitment form with Lutheran Social Services of MN (LSS) to work alongside them and help an Afghan Refugee family resettle in the Twin Cities. LSS is the local resettlement agency responsible for finding housing for the family and providing case management to connect them with government services they are entitled to, among other things. Peace has made a financial commitment of \$8,000, the majority of which will be used to assist the family with rent. Our commitment is to help the family for six months. In addition to the financial commitment, we have agreed to help the family in the following ways:

- **Provide everything the family needs in their home** (LSS will provide large furniture items that we cannot secure). Holly Anderson leads a team of people to coordinate the collection of in-kind donations from members (lists of items needed are available at Church and on the website).
- **Provide transportation to appointments, etc., where public transportation isn't available.**
- **Accompany the family when they initially shop for essential items, such as winter clothing.**
- **Help the family develop English skills.**
- **Facilitate financial education for the family.**
- **Help the family learn about their new community.**
- **In general, walk alongside the family as a friend to help them to become independent.**

Much of the ongoing contact with the family will be done by a handful of members that LSS calls the "Circle of Welcome Team." The following Peace members have volunteered to be on our Circle of Welcome Team: Connie and Mike Onan, Holly Anderson, Jan Yarger, Pam & Tim Hughes, Janelle and Peter Leppa, Kjell Ferris. Our Circle of Welcome team has completed all the training and paperwork LSS requires to be matched with a family.

There will be opportunities for all interested members to be involved with this ministry in various ways. We will let the congregation know when there is a need to be met. We now wait to be matched with a family. This could happen at any time, or it might be a long wait. As of November 1, LSS has resettled six families. Other families are being temporarily housed in a hotel until suitable permanent housing can be secured. As we wait, we are accepting financial and in-kind donations. Financial donations should be made to Peace Lutheran Church with a note designating it for the Afghan Refugee Ministry. For in-kind donations, be sure to check the list for items still needed.

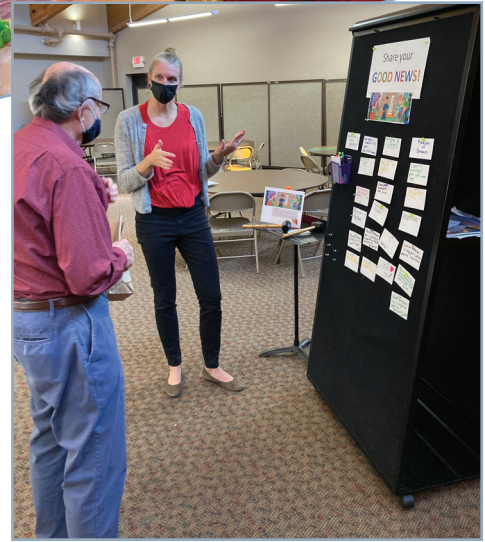
Thank you to the congregation for all the support and encouragement we've received as we plan for this ministry.

AFGHAN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT family donations

Thanks for helping to make a new family welcome to our community. A group of Peace Lutheran members are organizing household goods for a family soon to be arriving. Any way you can assist in making them feel comfortable in their new home is appreciated.



Reformation Sunday Celebration



What is baptism?
In it we are anointed
with the Holy Spirit
& joined in it with
the communion of
sinners who are saints.
SIMIL JUSTUS ET PECCATOR

"Good News" bulletin board

Share the fun and joyous things that are happening in your life and the community, and read everyone's Good News on the board.



Son, Luke doing well at Grad School!

Nora and Ian started basketball this month! 😊

God loves Everyone!
No Exceptions!!

Liese Peterson is engaged & will be married July 23, 2022

We added 2 Grandsons this year!
Russell + Jody Kinneberg

What is baptism?
In it we are anointed with the Holy Spirit & joined in it with the communion of Saints who are saints.
SIMIL JUSTUS ET PECCATOR

It'll be another few million years before our sun explodes and our world ends!

Bells are ringing BEAUTIFULLY!

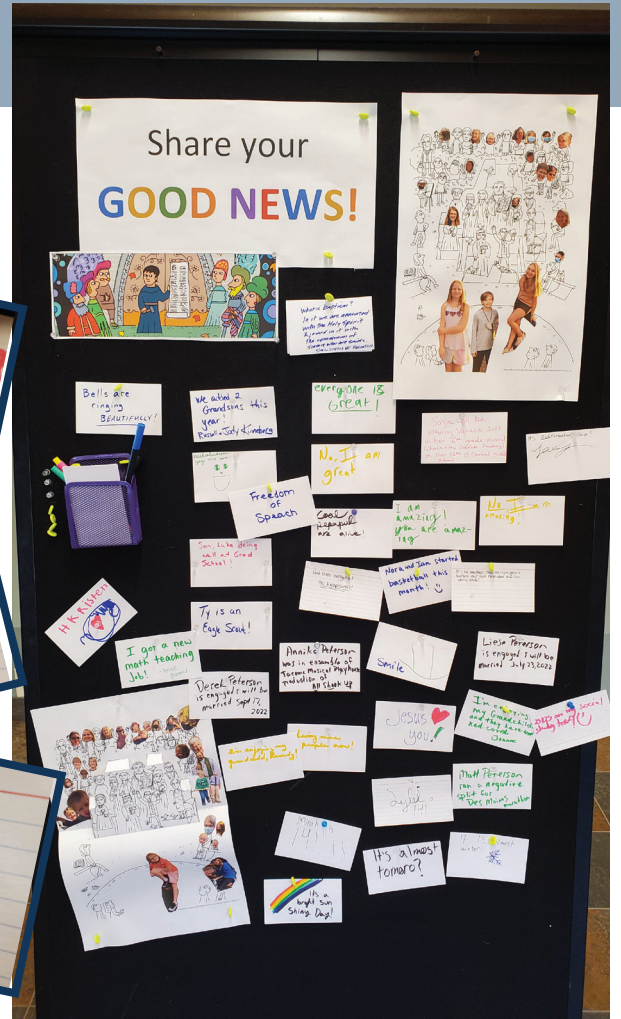
Matt Peterson ran a negative split for Des Moines marathon

Sonja will be playing Veruca Salt in her 6th grade musical (Charlie & the Chocolate Factory) on Nov 16th @ Central Middle School

It is almost winter! ❄️

I got a new math teaching job! -Annie Bonow

Smile



COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS & MENTAL HEALTH

Wednesday, Dec. 15,
from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Poverty, affordable housing, and mental health are often interconnected. Interfaith Outreach continues to engage our stakeholders and partners in essential conversations as we explore the topic of Housing, Homelessness & Mental Health.

Attend this free conversation held via ZOOM to learn about the impact of housing instability and homelessness on the mental health of youth and adults. Hear from an expert guest presenter and Interfaith staff as you learn more about this growing community issue. Learn how you can be part of the solution as our community is poised to take action.

Sign up to join the conversation.
An RSVP by Dec. 14 is appreciated.
<https://iocr.org/conversation/>



Provided by IOCP



Interfaith Outreach™
Igniting the power of community



Updates and Notices



The Greening of the Church

Sunday, November 28, 9 am

CROSS+Generational Christmas Pageant, "Sing We All Noel"

Sunday, December 12, 9 am

Music Festival, with Holy Communion, 9 am "A Child is Born"

Sunday, December 19, 9 am

Christmas Eve, Worship with Holy Communion

Friday, December 24, 4 pm

First Sunday of Christmas, Guest preacher, Wayne Peterson

Sunday, December 26, 9 am

NO Peaceful Nights Dinner on December 22, 29, and January 5.

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
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



PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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763.478.9406

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www.peaceofplymouth.org

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.



PEACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Christmas Eve,
Worship with Holy Communion
Friday, December 24, 4 pm



All Are Welcome Here

Invite Your Family & Friends



Listen for Love, Look for Love,
Speak with Love, Care with Love

Advent 2021

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.

3695 County Road 101 N., Plymouth, MN 55446-2907

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