



Peace Notes

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH, MINNESOTA

Volume 26, Issue 11, November 2021



INTERFAITH OUTREACH SLEEPOUT

The Sleep Out is Interfaith Outreach's annual eight-week series of events and experiences to raise awareness and \$3 million to prevent homelessness and create opportunities for everyone in our community to thrive.

The Sleep Out started 26 years ago with one man in a tent. Bob Shoebob Fisher started the Sleep Out, which is now a community tradition. This year, on Saturday, November 13th, sleep out (or in) to help tap into the transformative power of collective compassion. Join hundreds of community members who are doing the same with family and friends.

Sleep out (or in) - There are two ways to participate. Decide whether you want to sleep outside for the night or inside on couches and floors. Invite friends and family to join you and together make a difference for your community.

Events

Youth Gathering and Community Sleep Out (or In):

Saturday, Nov. 13, 7-9 p.m. (in-person event at Interfaith Outreach)

Give to the Max Day:

Thursday, Nov. 18, all day (statewide fundraising day – give online)

Giving Tuesday:

Tuesday, Nov. 30, all day (global fundraising day – give online)

Community Conversation:

Wednesday, Dec. 15, 11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. (virtual event)

Shop with a Purpose:

Thursday, Dec. 16 and Friday, Dec. 17 (shop in stores locally and online)

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

VOCATION & THE NARRATIVE LECTIONARY

We are just beginning our annual fall sermon series on Vocation, and our weekly Bible texts in worship highlight this focus. Here is an excerpt from the teacher's guide for "Living the Word," the curriculum that our Sunday School class is learning from for 2021-2022:

"The stories of the Year 4 Narrative Lectionary tell of God's invitation into relationships given to all people, and the ways in which God provides gifts of grace at every turn. While Abraham seemed too old to father a nation, Moses too quiet to lead a people, and David too young to take over Israel, we see throughout the Old Testament that God repeatedly calls the unexpected to step out in faith. As the people answer God's call, God never fails to equip them for the journey. Throughout Scripture, gifts of grace are given to those answering God's call, especially at some of the most trying moments. From gifts of manna in the wilderness to the promise of new life for the struggling Israelites, God's call to discipleship is never without God's blessing and provision each step of the way. As God chooses to dwell among us in Jesus Christ, God's commitment to relationship is distinctly clear. Jesus' invitations to abundant life reveal a relentless love that desires that all people know and serve God.

His teachings reveal a kingdom that opposes traditional expectations of power and importance, always calling the least expected into God's mission of redemption. As the hope of the resurrection spreads, God's grace abounds in everyday moments and throughout the significant challenges of the early church. These early churches learn to rejoice, even in trials, always trusting in God's provision. Each of us is invited into a life of discipleship by our loving Creator. God's continued presence and abounding grace allows us to answer God's call, and through those blessings, to live in hope as we serve Jesus through our neighbor."



FILLING BUCKETS: CONNECT, CARE AND CELEBRATE

Over 30 people gathered to share stories about how they have experienced Care, Connection, and Celebration through the ministries of Peace Lutheran. They reflected on what God may be calling our community at Peace Lutheran to do and be as we seek to live into this call during the coming year more fully. A complete summary of the meeting notes was shared via PEACE e-news; however, two opportunities that came out of these sessions are a youth Lefse making event and an opportunity for all ages to participate in **Feed My Starving Children** volunteer opportunity.



Lutheran Summer Music SUNDAY

by Stefanie Fiser Kleven, Minister of Music

It is a privilege to be part of a congregation that genuinely values quality music-making in worship. Through instruments and our voices, we lift our praises to God with sound!

In celebration of music's importance in the church, Peace participates in "LSM Sunday" on November 21. LSM stands for Lutheran Summer Music, which is a four-week immersive summer camp for high school students. While there, choir, band, and orchestral musicians get to play in large and small ensembles, take private lessons and electives, and attend morning and evening prayer services, all while living in a college dorm. It is a fantastic program that is part of the education and training of future (and present!) church musicians.

As part of LSM Sunday, Peace is hosting the string duo "The OK Factor," featuring Olivia Diercks and Karla Colahan, who was a student at LSM when I worked there about ten years ago! I am very excited to welcome them to lead worship with the Adult Choir, and I look forward to sharing some of the joy of LSM with the people of Peace! Be sure to join us for this special Sunday of worship.

String duo "The OK Factor," featuring Olivia Diercks & Karla Colahan



Peace Retreat

Luther Crest Bible Camp, Alexandria, MN September 24-26



FAITH IN DAILY LIFE

By Joni Sutton

Don Davidson

This month's Peace member who is featured for living his vocation is comfortable in many settings: on the dairy farm where he grew up, singing in a barbershop quartet, raising funds for charities, or being the CEO of an auto dealership. These are just a few examples of the ways that Don Davidson has lived his vocation.

Raised on a farm in Ellsworth, WI, Don attended Luther College after high school. He then worked as an auditor in Chicago, eventually moving to other corporate accounting and financial reporting positions. In 1979 he joined his father-in-law in the family auto business in Minnetonka. He has been there ever since, a total of 41 years. For the past 25 years, he has been Dealer Principal and CEO at this dealership, Sears Auto Imports.

Don is definitely a "family man." He has a son (Jeff), a daughter (Stacy), and three grandchildren. Although Don has spent six days per week at work for more than 40 years, he has tried to devote



almost his free time to his family. This has included time with them at church. Don has offered his support at Peace by serving communion, ushering, being on the church council, working on stewardship and finance committees and drives, and singing as a soloist or as part of an ensemble. He admits that his work has often challenged his time with his family, but he hopes that he has in some small way been able to replicate the example of his parents, who are the people that Don says have impacted him the most in his life. "They were both active in their church and community, and family always came first. If anyone was in need, they were always there to help," he recalls.

Over the years, Don has been involved with many charities, such as the Pacer Center, the National Kidney Foundation, Interfaith Outreach, and Community Partners (IOCP), the Minneapolis Jewish Federation, the Wayzata Chamber of Commerce, the Tubman Foundation, Open Arms (a sizeable local meal provider) and many other charities. In Don's business, a significant emphasis over the years has been to give back to the community as well. "It has been our way of honoring both our loyal customers and our great employees," he says. For the last few years, the company has devoted a full-time employee to work directly with the community and civic organizations. When their facility was remodeled in 2010, they gained an ideal venue for hosting events for the community, such as fundraisers, meetings, and events for local organizations and charities. Don says that "it is truly meaningful to be able to utilize your facility to host such events for the entire community."

When asked what the joys are of his vocation, Don says that he especially enjoys the people contact and the relationships developed at work. "This is also applicable to community involvement – it is the people you meet and work with who make the activities so rewarding," he explains. As for the church, Don says that, similarly, "it is the people that make the church. Although Peace is not a large church, it welcomes all and has been a community within itself for many years – a community of faith and worship." Don says that this feeling of community is vital in our current environment of uncertainty. "The impact of COVID, social and political upheaval and divisiveness requires all of our involvement and outreach," he says, and he feels that Peace has always provided a true community of faith and worship for himself his family, and others. Don believes that thriving goes well beyond financial success. To truly thrive, Don believes that "one's success is that of a strong faith, participation in a healthy community of worship and serving and assisting one's neighbor."

Don has a special and unique connection to Peace. His home church outside of Ellsworth – Our Savior's Lutheran – sponsored Peace when it first started out as a mission church. Don didn't know this when he and Joanne joined Peace in 1980, but he learned it much later, from conversations with Peace members Arne Kolbjornson and Monte Anderson.

Thank you, Don, for continuing to give of your time and talents to so many local charities that improve the lives of many, particularly for giving of yourself to Peace Lutheran Church. May we all, in our "busy-ness," find opportunities to give back with a happy heart, as you have done over the years!



Don & Joanne Davidson

QUILT MINISTRY

Peace has been blessed with a vibrant quilt ministry that was started about 25 years ago. The goal behind this ministry has always been to provide quilts to organizations that will distribute them to people experiencing homeless, living in other countries or simply needing the warmth on a cold winter night. Quilts have been donated to Lutheran World Relief, Marie Sandvick Center, and Simpson Housing most recently.

Many people have been part of this ministry over the years, with an average of 10 - 12 individuals working together at any given time. Jobs such as cutting fabric into squares of different sizes, putting them into kits for others to sew, ironing fabric, and sewing squares together into a 60" x 80" size were all done at home. When the quilters would come together two times a month, the sewn quilt tops would be tied together using yarn with batting in between the top and backing – often referred to as a “quilt sandwich.” Sides needed to be pinned together to form a hem and then finished on the sewing machine. Of course, coffee and sweets were a natural part of the meeting. Sometimes lunch was served to entice more people to come and help. A former member, Ernie Erickson, would even come and play his accordion for the group as they worked.

Fabric, thread, and yarn were donated by some of the quilters from their personal stash, some purchased using Thrivent gift cards, and at times others would donate materials or money to help cover the costs. There were no funds in the church budget specifically for the materials. A list of the number of donated quilts has been kept since 2003, and up through 2020, the estimated number is 1,300!

This ministry has now come to an end. Why? Like so many other things today, the group has gradually dwindled in size to just three to four people, and it just takes too long to complete a quilt without more hands. Any remaining materials are being donated to the Mennonite Central Committee group in south Minneapolis, small church quilting groups in the Staples area, and a thrift shop in Bagley, MN.

Patchwork quilts have been a visible act of love made by a grandmother, a favorite aunt, or a church ministry for countless generations. Pieced together from bits and pieces of material, they represent the handiwork and devotion of the quilter, and the quilt has become something more – a visible act of prayer made with love. As Jeanette Colligan said, “We have all felt so blessed and privileged to be able to provide these small gifts of quilts to people who desperately need them. We hope they have felt all the prayers that we have said over each of the quilts as we have worked on them.”

A huge and heartfelt thank you to each person who has worked on these quilts in some way over the years. Your Quilt Ministry has genuinely made a difference in many people’s lives.

There is a remaining group of quilts that will be donated in November, including some baby size quilts that were donated by Lady Bug Quilters of Bloomington, MN just before shutdown. A blessing of the 2021 quilts will be a part of the worship service on Sunday, November 7 at Peace.



Nancy Broge, Evie Anderson, Alice Ganyo, Annette Seydow, Jeanette Colligan



Peace Garden Update



Greenwood teachers enjoying lunch in the new nature area behind Peace.

Although the heat and drought posed some difficulty, Peace's Garden was abundant this past summer. Mike Onan made eight deliveries to Interfaith Outreach with an estimated overall \$500 value of the produce donated. There were also significant green beans, zucchini, tomatoes, carrots, butternut squash, strawberries, and rhubarb. Lesser quantities of onions, snap peas, peppers, sweet corn, basil, cabbage, brussels sprouts, and broccoli also were dropped off.

Look for information on seed starting and planting dates come late winter and early spring!

OPERATION BOOTSTRAP AFRICA

Funding Healthcare Training and Projects

While OBA's founder, David Simonson, focused his development efforts mainly on education, his wife, a trained nurse, also saw another great need in Tanzania. During their time as missionaries, Eunice began treating the ill and injured out of their home, hoping to alleviate some small part of the immense healthcare gap in the country. After founding the organization, Eunice, David, and Operation Bootstrap Africa worked on fundraising for and building hundreds of rural clinics and dispensaries in Tanzania.

Today OBA partners with several healthcare organizations in Tanzania. We support programming at the Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre (ALMC) and Selian Hospital in northern Tanzania and at Plaster House – a pediatric rehabilitation center for children undergoing surgeries or other long-term care who aren't able to safely and healthily recuperate at home.

In addition to supporting and providing healthcare facilities, OBA also addresses the lack of skilled healthcare providers in Tanzania. Including doctors, nurses, midwives, and health aides, only five providers for every 10,000 people in Tanzania. In 2015, OBA partnered with ALMC and Dr. Mark Jacobson to start a nursing school that helps fill some of this need. The ALMC School of Nursing provides 1, 2, and 3-year training programs for students pursuing degrees or certification in the fields of midwifery, community health, and nursing. OBA provides a scholarship fund for the ALMC School of Nursing, which subsidizes the cost of tuition for all students, and creates greater access to healthcare education.



Updates and Notices

All Saints Sunday

November 7, worship at 9:00 am

We commemorate the lives of those who have gone on before us.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship & Pie Fellowship

We give thanks to God for the blessings in our lives. Join us for worship on Thanksgiving Eve, **Wednesday, November 24, 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary and live-streamed.**

As in years past, we invite all to stay after worship for fellowship and pie!

Sign up to bring a pie to share by visiting www.peaceofplymouth.org.

First Sunday in Advent and Greening of the Church

November 28, 9am worship service

TreeHouse

Because TreeHouse's Plymouth and New Hope sites recruit from the same schools, and due to staff and COVID changes, TreeHouse is merging the two sites. They need a central meeting place, which means they will vacate their Peace location. TreeHouse expressed gratitude to Peace Lutheran for many years of partnership, saying, "Peace has been a pivotal part of their ministry."

Ministry of Space - Do you know of any organizations looking for space to help their non-profits or ministries flourish? Peace Lutheran is interested in partnerships that allow us to be a blessing to our community, so please share your ideas by email or call.

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
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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.



PEACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

3695 County Road 101 N
Plymouth, MN 55446-2907

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service
Wednesday, November 24, 6:30 p.m.
Pie and fellowship after the service.

All Are Welcome Here

Invite Your Family & Friends



WED NOVEMBER 24TH 6:30 P

Thanksgiving Eve Worship
Pie and fellowship after service

*Happy
Thanksgiving*

PEACEOFPLYMOUTH.ORG

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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