



# Peace Notes

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH, MINNESOTA

Volume 27, Issue 4, April 2022



## JESUS IS RISEN!

### THE RESURRECTION JOURNEY: HOLY WEEK 2022

The Gospel According to John

**Palm Sunday, April 10**

9:00 am worship

**Good Friday, April 15**

6:30 pm worship

**Maundy Thursday, April 14**

6:30 pm worship  
with Holy Communion

**Easter Sunday, April 17**

9:00 am worship  
with Holy Communion,  
choir and handbells



PEACE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Save the Date

SUNDAY, MAY 15  
9:00 AM

MAY MUSIC FESTIVAL

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

# THE NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR

The Earth Sings Beauty

Join the NLC on May 1 for **The Earth Sings Beauty** to hear the world premiere of *Lament of the Earth* by composer Steve Heitzeg and poet Susan Palo Cherwien. The concert will take place at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi, broadcasted by Minnesota Public Radio and live-streamed at NLCA.com.

*Lament of the Earth* is a recipient of the Dale Warland Singers commission award and features acclaimed mezzo-soprano Clara Osowski and the St. John's Boys' Choir. The content of the work delves into the symbiotic relationship between humanity and the natural world, bringing us all closer to the earth on which we live.

The *Earth Sings Beauty* will also include other favorites like Erik Esenvalds' *Stars* and Eric Whitacre's *I thank you, God, for this most amazing day*, transforming this world premiere event into a remarkable celebration of the Earth.

## In-Person Concert

**Sunday, May 1st - 4:00pm**

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi, MN

Adults and seniors: \$35 | Students: Pay what you can | 18 and Under Free

## Livestream

**Sunday, May 1st - 4:00pm**

nlca.com

## Radio Broadcast

**Sunday, May 1st - 4:00pm**

Minnesota Public Radio, Tune to Classical MPR

***For tickets and more information,  
visit [nlca.com](http://nlca.com) or call 612-722-2301***



## WORSHIP AT PEACE

Winter is slowly opening up into spring, and we wait for the fulfillment of God's promises.

Be sure to join us for worship during Holy Week, hearing the stories of Jesus in Jerusalem.

At the end of April and early May, we will return to the Earthkeeping Liturgy, singing the songs of Hans Peterson and Larry Olson.

## A LITURGY FOR EARTHKEEPING



# Faith in Daily Life - David Jopke

By Joni Sutton

As a person diagnosed with Type I Diabetes at age seven, this month's featured Peace member has sought ways to help others with this disease. Continue reading to learn about how David Jopke is living his vocation.

David was raised in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, and now lives in Plymouth with Erin. Since he was a teenager, he has known that he wanted to help others who were living with diabetes. Like many teenagers, he struggled during those years to live with this disease, but he had a diabetes educator during that time who changed his life. "She treated me like a whole person rather than simply labeling and defining me by a disease." After high school, he felt a pull toward a degree that would become a diabetes educator. However, the natural science portion of the degree curriculum put him off, and he pursued and earned a degree at Hamline University in Communication Studies. After graduation, David worked for two separate companies where he offered technical support to people using insulin pumps. In both cases, his position disappeared due to mergers and layoffs. After this second job ended, he decided to take the plunge and go back to school at Metropolitan State University to get his MSN in nursing. He worked at Methodist Hospital as a cardiac nurse and eventually transferred to the International Diabetes Center, where he provides diabetes education. He is now again in school at Metro State to obtain a Doctorate of Nursing Practice. He credits the love and encouragement of his wife, Erin, and the encouragement from his former manager – also an RN – to finally get past his self-imposed roadblocks and to dare to retrain in a new field.

David says that the best part of his vocation is "helping people who live with diabetes to live their best life. This is especially true when people are struggling or when they are scared after initially being diagnosed. It simply comes down to being able to connect with others, meet them where they are at, and restore their belief in the ability to live full, healthy lives." He loves that he has been able to provide care for others, much like what he himself has received. He does have frustrations with systemic issues, such as lack of insurance, medication costs, and the lack of access to healthy and affordable foods.

When asked how his faith connects with his vocation, he says that he finds that serving others, especially related to a population that he is uniquely qualified to serve, lies directly with his faith. "I believe that any gifts I have are a direct gift from God, and my vocation now is aligned with those gifts." As much as a struggle as it has sometimes been to have diabetes, he notes that having the disease has helped him immensely with his vocation. This realization has strengthened his personal relationship with God and has sustained him when challenges have arisen.

In addition to his passion for diabetes education, David has another passion – singing. "Music is a part of my soul," he says. Since joining a choir in middle school, he has been passionate about singing and performing in choirs. He began voice lessons in high school and continued with them through college. He now sings as a worship leader at Peace, as a member of the Adult Choir at Peace, and in the Oratorio Society of Minnesota. Once this busy man finishes school, he would like to learn a second language and improve his piano skills. Congratulations, David, for finding a path that has to lead you to fully living your vocation, and thank you for all you do!



David and Erin Jopke

Vocation  
Faith in Daily Life

# Farewell to the Ferris Family

A Farewell Celebration for Pastor Kjell and the Ferris family was held on March 6.

There was food, fun, and many farewell messages.



# Camp Liturgy

Peace students lead the Camp Liturgy worship services on Feb. 13, 20, and 27.

Students were fundraising for camping this summer.



# A note from Pastor Paul

I'm so pleased to begin my work with you as your interim pastor. I've served as an interim pastor in over half of the twenty-three years of being a pastor. I have walked alongside congregations of all sizes in many contexts. I've loved each congregation, and I've grown because of each of them. I look forward to the opportunity to walk alongside you. Before anything else, I want to spend time getting to know you. I will be an active listener to the things you want me to know about you, your congregation, and what you imagine God might be doing. Together, we have work to do, yet we engage this work by grace; God's Spirit will lead and guide us. There's much for us to talk about in the time ahead. I hope you'll join us in all that is to come. Let's find time to talk.

I love to laugh and listen and love connecting with people. Among the things that pastors do, I especially love to preach, lead worship, teach, and help congregations heal so they can be ready for what God has in store for them. I am training to become a spiritual director through Christos in the Twin Cities. I love to listen to the stories of others and help them find God in their stories.

In peace,  
*Pastor Paul Lutter*



*Pastor Paul Lutter*

## How Are You... Really? *Sondra Weinzierl, RN, Faith Community Nurse*

My friend recently had heart bypass surgery. The night after surgery, he was having trouble sleeping because he was worried about his heart and health. A nurse came into his room at 1 a.m. and, finding him awake, asked, "John, how are you?" Not wanting to complain, John said, "I'm fine." But his nurse heard something in his voice that prompted her to sit down, take his hand and say, "John, you've just had major surgery...how are you, really?" John told me it was such a relief to talk about his fears with a compassionate person, and he felt a sense of peace and calm as a result.

How are you? Over the past couple of years, we've been fighting the pandemic and our world. We've lost loved ones due to Covid or other causes. We've given up the joy of being with family and friends. We've felt frustrated at the sharp divisions in our communities and country. While we find comfort in our faith, the truth is that many of us are struggling.

Depression and anxiety are at record levels for all age groups. One in five Americans experiences a mental health disorder in any given year, and almost all of us have a close relative or friend who is affected. Yes, we often suffer in silence or answer the question, "How are you?" with "Fine."

If you have these signs of depression or anxiety, talk with your pastor, your health care provider, or a professional counselor. (Your pastor can give you the names of therapists.)

- **Persistent feelings of sadness, tearfulness, emptiness, hopelessness**
- **Angry outbursts, irritability, or frustration even over small matters.**
- **Loss of interest or pleasure in most usual activities such as hobbies or sports**
- **Sleep disturbances, including insomnia or sleeping too much.**
- **Unable to relax, unable to stop worrying, trouble concentrating.**
- **Having a sense of impending danger or doom.**
- **Feeling separated from God and your faith.**

Getting help for your emotional and spiritual well-being is just as critical as getting help for your physical body. Our congregation can be a caring place for those of any age struggling with emotional pain. Asking "How are you, really?" and listening with compassion and love (without trying to "fix" things) is one way we can lessen the stress these days.

To your health,

*Sondra Weinzierl, RN, Faith Community Nurse*

# Updates and Notices

## Palm Sunday Faith-Forming Fun for Kids

Please join us for faith-forming activities with the kids after services on Palm Sunday, April 10. Depending on the weather, activities will include an Easter egg hunt with a puzzle twist and other activities.

## Palm Sunday, April 10

9:00 am worship

## Maundy Thursday, April 14

6:30 pm worship

with Holy Communion

## Good Friday, April 15

6:30 pm worship

## Easter Sunday, April 17

9:00 am worship

with Holy Communion, choir and handbells.

Join us for rolls, fruit, juice and coffee after worship.



### 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 Paul Lutter** can be reached Sunday-Thursday  
paul@peaceofplymouth.org  
507-440-0048  
(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

Interim pastor ..... Rev. Paul Lutter  
Minister of Music..... Stefanie Fiser Kleven  
Organist..... Anne Phillips  
Office Manager ..... Chris Bacon



3695 County Road 101 N.  
Plymouth, MN 55446

763.478.9406

peace@peaceofplymouth.org  
www.peaceofplymouth.org

## COMMUNICATIONS

Want an announcement in the weekly email? Email Chris@peaceofplymouth.org by Thursday 5pm.

Want an announcement in 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



## Easter Worship Service

**Sunday, April 17, 2022, 9 am**

Worship at Peace either in-person  
or streaming online.

## All Are Welcome Here

*Invite Your Family & Friends*



### 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