



# Peace Notes

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH, MINNESOTA

Volume 27, Issue 3, March 2022

## UNIVERSAL CHRIST THE RESURRECTION JOURNEY

Lent 2022

During the season of Lent, Peace is reading the Gospel of John and Rev. Richard Rohr's best-selling book *The Universal Christ... How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For, and Believe*.

**How do I get a book?** Books and Study Guides are available in the office (\$15 & \$5) or feel free to pick them up wherever books are sold.

**How do I participate in a small group?** You can sign up for small groups by going to [peaceofplymouth.org](http://peaceofplymouth.org) and clicking on the "sign up" button. Small groups will start the first week of Lent.

Lent is a season that encourages us to be mindful of how God is with us in our suffering and vulnerability, as well as our joys and service to others. We are challenged to live into the questions Jesus posed because belief is much more than having all the answers. Belief is about living faithfully in the questions knowing that the Spirit is leading.

In *The Universal Christ*, Rohr articulates a transformative view of Jesus Christ as a portrait of God's constant unfolding work in the world, "God loves things by becoming them." This book is thought-provoking, practical, and full of deep hope! A perfect companion as we journey toward resurrection.

Follow along each week with Richard Rohr's podcast, *Another Name for Everything*.

### WORSHIP DURING LENT

*"Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love."*

Joel 2:13

Join us for Lenten worship and the opportunity to deepen your faith through the stories of the last week of Jesus' life in the Gospel according to John.

**Wednesday nights, in the Sanctuary and live-streamed**

March 2 - Ash Wednesday, 6:30 pm

March 9, 16, 23, 30 & April 6 - Service of Evening Prayer from the ELW, 6:30 pm

**Sunday mornings, in the Sanctuary and live-streamed**

March 6 - April 3, 9:00 am

#### HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

April 10 - Palm Sunday, 9:00 am

April 14 - Maundy Thursday, 6:30 pm

April 15 - Good Friday, 6:30 pm

April 17 - Easter Sunday, 9:00 am

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

# For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...

*Ecclesiastes 3:1*

On February 9, Pastor Kjell Ferris announced that he would be taking a new call and departing from Peace after more than seven years of service. With gratitude for his service and honor, our shared ministry with Pastor Kjell, Heidi, Eleanor, and Iris will be planning a celebration after worship on Sunday, March 6. We hope you will be able to join us in wishing the Ferris family well on their journey.

Your church council is in ongoing contact with the Minneapolis Area Synod to work on the process of transition. There are steps to take and checklists to follow that will guide us along the way with the help of synod staff. The synod will provide two or three candidates, selected with Peace in mind, who may serve as our interim pastor. Before calling our next pastor, the interim pastor will have particular gifts to serve and care for us.

As we move forward, a key to our congregation's vitality is to listen carefully and intentionally. We must listen in three ways: to each other, the surrounding community, and God. Engagement with prayer and one another will support the church's work now and into its next chapter. Your engagement is a beautiful form of stewardship to the congregation.

The church council will be planning more formal listening sessions, but note that we are always ready to hear from you. Feel free to contact your council members (Jennifer Stoffel, Janelle Leppa, Lisa Lukis, Becky Gabbert, Inger Trooien, Angela Akhigbe, and Erin Jopke) or email: [exec.council@peaceofplymouth.org](mailto:exec.council@peaceofplymouth.org). We thank you for your dedication to Peace, support, and prayers as we transition.

## Thank you... from Pastor Kjell

There are so many beautiful stories and memories from my time at Peace Lutheran: fixing the roof with members of the property committee, Bible studies, and Lenten small groups, connecting scripture and new perspectives with book clubs, mission trips to Minneapolis and Dominican Republic, day camps and retreats with youth, and joyous worship Sunday after Sunday. Thank you for sharing your lives, both the joys and the messiness, with me.

I have sought to be: a faithful Pastor rooted in Jesus' grace and guiding, linking God's Word to people's diverse realities, fostering generosity, and listening to people's stories; a team player empowering people, naming strengths, connecting people to their passions and working with community partners; and a creative leader is aligning people around God's abundant love active in the world, creating a climate of clarity and hospitality, and coaching people to be their true selves.

Grounded in the love of Jesus Christ and with gratitude in my heart, I will go, and I leave you with a prayer: O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand leads us and your love supports us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



Pastor Kjell

# Faith in Daily Life - Pam Johnson

By Joni Sutton

Charter Peace Lutheran members Harry and Elaine Dahl moved to Plymouth in 1963 with a young, growing family. They bought a house with a big yard and a big garden. Their oldest daughter, Pam, remembers that the four children were expected to help with the garden. Harry believed this would build character and would teach his children a life lesson about faith: give the vegetables their water, nurture them with fertilizer, and watch the plants grow. Pam Dahl is now Pam Johnson, and she is this month's featured member as a person who lives her vocation.

Pam and her husband, Steve, met at Peace during a smorgasbord held after a church Christmas concert. Steve knew Peace member Kathie Kolbjornsen from his hometown church, Vangen Lutheran, in Mission Hill, South Dakota. Kathie's simple invitation to a church function led to a 37-year marriage for Pam and Steve. Pam and Steve have two children, both of whom were married in 2020. Amid the Covid pandemic, plans were adjusted for these weddings with lots of faith and lots of prayers: dates changed, guest lists changed, and venues changed. Both weddings were wonderful, at beautiful outdoor sites.

After 25 years working as a dental assistant, the dentist Pam worked for decided to retire, and Pam felt it was time for a career change. She turned to her father, who told her that something would turn up if she had a little faith. He suggested she look into the Wayzata school district, and there she found her new vocation, as a "lunch lady" at Wayzata West Middle School. In her role as a dental assistant, Pam would calm nerves, hold hands with frightened children, and do what she could to make the experience in a dentist's chair less scary. She loved the job and felt that it was where she needed to be. Now she was moving into new, uncharted territory: middle school! She says that it wasn't hard to prep, cook, and serve the students, but it was hard to get these adolescents to take and eat the healthy choices that had been put before them. She learned to greet them by name and let them know they were important to her. She would remember what items they wanted from her à la carte line and tried to connect with them. She knew she had found another true vocation when the students began greeting her back and when she began receiving positive notes from the kids. The students voted G.O.A.T. ("Greatest of All Time") ("Greatest of All Time"). "That leap of faith, becoming a lunch lady, paid off," she tells us. She still sees "her kids" as she drives her John Deere lawn tractor around the neighborhood mowing lawns (her new career, after retiring from Wayzata Schools). They still will holler, "Hey, hey, Mrs. J!" Clearly, she had found another place where her vocation led her to nurture, care and connect.

Pam remembers when the ground was broken for Peace Lutheran. "We broke the soil with a lot of other members, we helped the church grow, and we nurtured it so it could stay here." Pam has been a Sunday School teacher and a confirmation mentor in her time at Peace. She has been on the church council, the altar guild, has made and changed banners (one time, she forgot to change them and went up to church late at night in her pajamas to get them changed). She has played in the bell choir, has helped with Peaceful Nights, helped with Vacation Bible School, has organized and helped with Welcome Back picnics at Lake Independence, has taught many church kids how to ski, and has gone on ski trips as a chaperone. She's been a reader, a greeter, a communion assistant, and an usher and is still involved in the kitchen for Peaceful Nights. "You have to be strong in your faith to put yourself out there to do this," she believes. Her daughter has a tattoo that says, "Give me strength when I'm standing and faith when I fall." This is a saying that means a lot to Pam. Her father passed away quickly; her mother did not. Pam has relied on faith to get her through changes and losses, and Peace has been the place she has turned to have that faith nurtured. In turn, Pam's vocations as a volunteer at church, as a lunch lady, and as a dental assistant has nurtured countless others. Thank you, Pam!

*Give me love when I ain't got nobody  
A little hope when I ain't got none at all  
Give me light up ahead upon the journey  
Give me strength when I'm standing  
And faith when I fall*

*From "Faith When I Fall," by Kip Moore*



**Pam and Steve Johnson**

**Vocation**  
Faith in Daily Life

# Wednesday Night Schedule -

The Wednesday night programming schedule has returned to in-person programming. Lent services will be held at 6:30 pm on Wednesday evenings.

## PEACEFUL NIGHTS DURING LENT

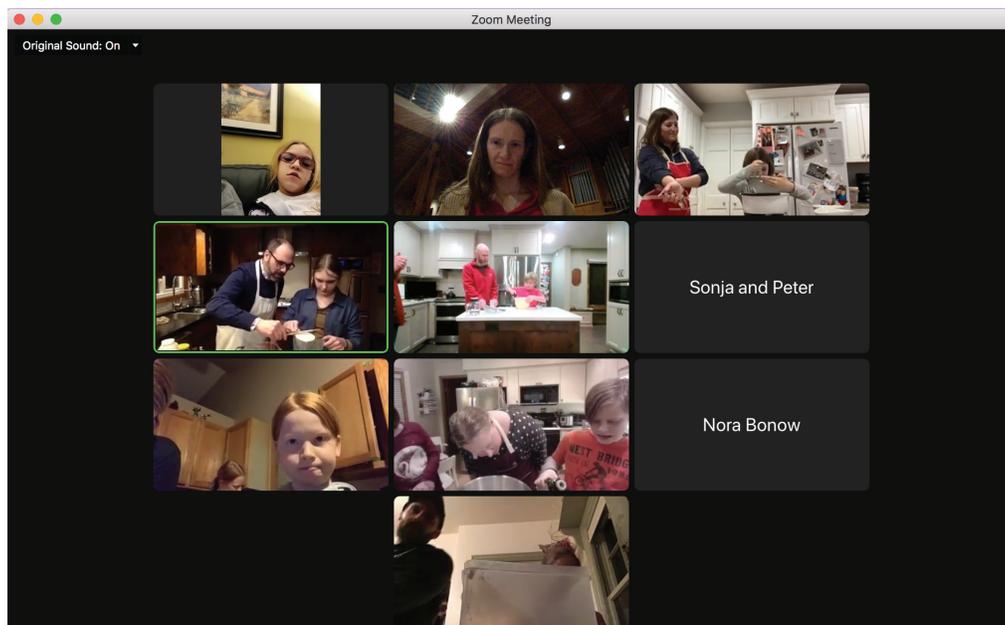
*Ash Wednesday is March 2, 2022.*

*Please join us for dinner at 5:30 pm and worship at 6:30 pm.*

From March 9-April 6, here's what Wednesday nights will look like:

Lent 2022	Sunday School	Pre-Confirmation	Confirmation	Adults
5:30-6:00 pm	Dinner (Fellowship Hall)			
6:00 pm	Music (Activity Room)	Music (Activity Room)	Music (Activity Room)	Clean up, Fellowship, and Board Games
6:30 pm	ELW Evening Prayer Worship (Sanctuary)			
7:00-7:30 pm	Games (Fellowship Hall)	Games (Fellowship Hall)	Games (Fellowship Hall)	"The Universal Christ" Small Groups
7:45-8:45 pm			Adult Choir (Sanctuary) Adult Bells (Bell Room)	Adult Choir (Sanctuary) Adult Bells (Bell Room)

**First Communion students making their bread as a group via Zoom!**



# Updates and Notices

## March Bible Readings

- John 10: 1-16, March 2
- John 11: 1-44, March 6
- John 13: 1-17, March 13
- John 18: 12-27, March 20
- John 18: 28-40, March 27



**Connection** - Stay connected to the happenings and updates with Peace Lutheran's ministries throughout the month... sign up for the weekly e-news email. Just let us know you would like to stay connected by emailing [peace@peaceofplymouth.org](mailto:peace@peaceofplymouth.org).



### Sunday, February 13 First Communion Students

Brooke Bickley  
Kristen Reeves  
Austin Reeves  
Sadie Tofteland

Gwen Lukis  
Kate Bickley  
Ian Bonow  
Daniel Lukis

#### 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](mailto:kjell@peaceofplymouth.org)

#### 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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## COMMUNICATIONS

Want an announcement in the weekly email? Email [Chris@peaceofplymouth.org](mailto:Chris@peaceofplymouth.org) by Thursday 5pm.

Want an announcement in the monthly newsletter? Email [Chris@peaceofplymouth.org](mailto: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**

**Ash Wednesday,  
March 2, 2022,  
6:30 pm worship  
service**



**All Are Welcome Here**  
*Invite Your Family & Friends*



## SUNDAY MORNING

9:00 am —Worship Live Streamed & In-Person  
9:45 am —Fellowship & Education



### 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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