



Peace Notes

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH, MINNESOTA

Volume 27, Issue 5, May 2022



On the Way

We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you. (2 Chronicles 20:12)

For the next year or so, you and I will journey together toward a renewed sense of mission, ministry, and vision as a congregation. We'll know we've reached our destination when we're able to articulate what God is calling us as a congregation (mission), how God is calling us to live out the mission (ministry), and for what purpose God is calling us in this direction (vision). Eventually, you will seek a pastor to help you live these things out loud in your life together. **I'm grateful and honored to walk alongside you on this journey.** There are already so many signs that indicate to me many ways the Holy Spirit has already gifted and empowered you to lean into all God is doing in your life as a congregation.

I recognize that though the journey ahead is hope-filled, it may also seem a bit worrisome. There is so much we don't know about what lies ahead. We may feel overwhelmed by the prospect of a journey like this. We might feel directionally challenged. How will we know if we're headed in the right direction, on the right path? What if we reach a place where we feel altogether stuck? In his work on the Psalms, Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann talks about events in our lives that orient, events that disorient, and events that reorient us toward God. I have no doubt that over the course of the next year, we will each encounter periods of all three over the course of the next year as we seek to follow where God's Spirit leads. That may drive some to throw their hands in the air in resignation. If that's you, please be at peace. Remember Jesus says, **Do not be afraid.** And as a community on the move, as we follow Jesus, we can utter these words from 2 Chronicles: *We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.* Write Jesus' words and the words from the verse in 2 Chronicles, and carry them with you. Tape them up somewhere. Say them to yourself. And return to them. Often.



Pastor Paul Lutter

We are on a journey together. We are on a journey with Jesus. And because of this, **we have hope.**

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

Journey Together

Let us join together as we journey through a year of interim ministry. Kick-Off in May, followed by dinner events the last Wednesday of every month for a full year.



We make the way by walking. I heard this sentence spoken some time ago, but I don't remember where or from whom. This year, I am especially fond of the communal nature in terms of our journey this year. The way we're talking about our journey this year is not singular but communal and collective.

You are invited to two events that are coming up in May. One event is on May 1, 2022, after worship. The other is on Sunday, May 22, 2022, after worship and meets every month through spring 2023.

I invite parents of small children to meet with me on Sunday, May 1, after worship. There will be a few games for those who can play games. The nursery will be open and staffed. And parents are invited to the Fireside Room to join me for coffee and goodies. The whole purpose of the event is to get to know one another and talk together. A journey is more meaningful when we know others are journeying with us. We may have events like this occasionally, just to further our relationships with one another. There's no expectation beyond this gathering to come together. Let's just meet together and enjoy one another's a company on May 1. I hope you can join us. I look forward to getting to know you!

On Sunday, May 22, we begin **Journey Together** following worship. The event on May 22 is a kick-off event and is intergenerational. Initially, the event was going to meet throughout the summer; yet, when I heard of this, I wondered if we couldn't use it to explore themes of journeying together through the lens of our time together throughout the year. I'm grateful to our CYF committee, who brought the initial idea to my attention and got my imagination stirring. The themes we will explore over the year will include the Bible, Spirit, Disciples, Church, World, and then a Send-Off. Each of these themes will be broken down into two sessions. After the kickoff, each session will be a dinner event.

As people who journey together, we gather for nourishment, community building – and fun! Following the kickoff, events will continue the last Wednesday of the month through the 2022-2023 year. Volunteers are needed to help in various ways: food planning, event leaders, musicians, supply organization, setup, and clean up. There are plans for an electronic sign-up for those interested in a chance to help with this fantastic event.

Here are the dates for **Journey Together** for this summer:

- **Sunday, May 22**, after worship: Kick-Off
- **Wednesday, June 29**, 6 pm: The Bible = 66 books
- **Wednesday, July 27**, 6 pm: God's Word is for Everyone
- **Wednesday, August 31**, 6 pm: Five-a-Day to Grow God's Way

In these ways, among others, we journey together, following where and how God is leading, nourishing, and equipping us. I hope you can join us for either or both events. They will both be great fun!

I'd also like to get to know you all better, hear your stories, and learn your impressions of where you hear God calling Peace Lutheran as a congregation. Feel free to be in touch with me so we can set up a time to get together. My email is paul@peaceofplymouth.org. My cell number is (507) 440-0048.

I look forward to hearing from you.
In peace,

Pastor Paul Lutter, Interim Pastor

Volunteers are needed to help in a variety of ways:

food planning, event leaders,
musicians,
supply organization,
setup and cleanup.

If you want to join a team,
visit peaceofplymouth.com
and click the
Sign Up button

Faith in Daily Life - David Kleppe

By Joni Sutton

If you ever have a conversation with Peace member David Kleppe, you will quickly discover that he is a well-read man who immerses himself in learning and questioning. Your conversation may lead you to discuss authors, theologians, music, or political science. This month, we will learn more about this lifelong learner, a humble man with a big heart and a deep curiosity about life, faith, and community.

David was born in Boulder, Colorado, but as the son of an aeronautical engineer, he frequently moved: from Arlington, Texas, to Denver and then to Minnesota. He was raised with two brothers and two sisters. There were piano lessons, swimming lessons, camping trips, and, depending on the location, sometimes there were views of mountain peaks from the backyard. He remembers Vista Dome train trip adventures through high-altitude tracks and tunnels, staying in Colorado Springs. "It was like every valley exalted, every mountain and hill made low, the crooked straight and the rough places plain," he recounts (with words from Isaiah 40:4). This sounds like an idyllic childhood, but changing schools frequently must have been difficult. He went to many different grade schools, two different junior high schools, and two high schools: Edina and Columbia Heights. While in high school, he especially enjoyed participating in Junior Achievement. Another high school activity, Luther League gave him carefree days of hayrides and horseback riding. And then, in the summer of 1964, there was a civil rights rally at St. Thomas University after four student activists were killed in Mississippi. "We all held hands and sang *We Shall Overcome*." This is a memory that has affected him to this day. He speaks highly of their pastor, Griffith H. Williams, who took the group to a football game at St. Olaf College. "Pastor Williams never put on a helmet or shoulder pads, but he sure put on a full armor of the gospel and its saving power, something I learned about in confirmation class every Saturday morning during the school year."



David Kleppe

At the University of Minnesota, David majored in Journalism and worked for a time at a weekly newspaper in Owatonna. Due to a military obligation, he enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserves, went to radar school, and then served on a helicopter carrier that operated in the Mediterranean, the North Atlantic, and finally in the Gulf of Tonkin off the coast of Vietnam. At the war's end, the carrier went to the entrance to Haiphong Harbor to remove American mines from the shipping lanes using aerial electronic minesweeping measures. "A small group of sailors met in the ship library for Bible study and found that peace is possible even in wartime," David shares. "I rediscovered the whole idea of being created in the image of God. It reoriented my understanding of existence."

When David came home, he found employment at the University of Minnesota and later worked for community newspapers as a reporter and advertising sales representative. He also had jobs in retail sales. He was recruited and rejoined the Naval Reserves, attended monthly weekend duties, and served on annual temporary active duty aboard ships and at shore stations. For a time, he was placed in a chaplaincy unit working with all Lutheran pastors who were doing weekend military duty.

David studied for a few years at United Theological Seminary and had some student internships at Congregational churches. He missed the Lutheran experience, so joining Peace Lutheran Church seemed like a welcome homecoming when he moved to Plymouth. In addition to his diverse employments, David has found great joy in his volunteerism with various groups and advocacy causes. "The best part of this has been in volunteer church work, in peace and justice groups, including a Lutheran foundation providing college scholarships for students working toward careers in community wellbeing and in social justice reform," he explains. David adds that "being active at Peace Lutheran Church in the thriving of our neighbors via Families Moving Forward, TreeHouse, the rummage sale and singing in the Adult Choir over nearly seventeen years has been great." David has also coordinated donations to the Memorial Blood Bank, helps with Peaceful Nights, and has been a volunteer at our Welcome Desk. "I have learned more about love, hope and service from this church than I ever did in Seminary training. True grace never ends, does it?" As mentioned at the beginning of this article, David is a lifelong learner. He still has an interest in studying theology, both ancient and modern. "It seems our deepest questions about life, faith, hope and togetherness are as important as the answers," he explains. During Lent, he participated in Peace's book study group, reading *"The Universal Christ"* by Richard Rohr, and found the book eye-opening. He has also been reading some of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's writings. He finds that there is also good faith and theology in the Lutheran hymnal. He points to a verse in the hymn, Remember and Rejoice: "In life and death we trust in God's most holy name, forever traced by water sign and spirit flame." David points out that "when words and music unite, it is something special." David also cites the liturgy sung at Peace last summer as something that has spoken to him: "Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer/ We come to hear your living word, it saves us from despair."

David, you have given of yourself to your church, community, and country. You have lived your faith and vocation selflessly, and your Peace family thanks you for all you do as we continue to learn in your well-read company!

Vocation
Faith in Daily Life

Peaceful Nights Programing

From April 20-May 11, here's what Wednesday nights will look like:

| SPRING 2022 | Elementary | Pre-Confirmation | Confirmation | Adults |
|--------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| 5:30-6:00 pm | Dinner (Fellowship Hall) | | | |
| 6:00 pm | Music (Room 111/112) | CONNECT Lesson (Room 107/108) | Wholeheart Faith Book Study (Room 104) | Fellowship |
| 6:30 pm | Games (Fellowship Hall) | | | Bible Study (Fireside Room) |
| 7:00-7:30 pm | Youth Music* (Sanctuary) | | | |
| 7:45-8:45 pm | | | | Adult Choir (Sanctuary) Adult Bells (Bell Room) |

**Youth Music is geared toward upper elementary and middle schoolers who are proficient in reading and who want to share music in worship, especially singing and handbells.*



Palm Sunday
April 10, 2022



Updates and Notices

Peaceful Nights programming ends on Wednesday, May 11, 2022,

Journey Together through a year of Interim Ministry. Plans beginning this summer include:

Sunday, May 22, after worship: Kick-Off

Wednesday, June 29, 6 pm: The Bible = 66 books

Wednesday, July 27, 6 pm: God's Word is for Everyone

Wednesday, August 31, 6 pm: Five-a-Day to Grow God's Way

May scripture readings

May 1 Acts 9:1-19a

May 8 Acts 16: 16-34

May 15 Acts 17: 16-31

May 22 Philippians 1: 1-18a

May 29 Philippians 2: 1-13



Pastor Paul Lutter and daughter Annika, Palm Sunday

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



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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

Journey Together Kick-Off,
Sunday, May 22 after worship

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