

April 2025



Ministers: The Congregation
Pastor: Ian McMichael
Church Secretary: Kristi Nelson
Pianist: Kate Schneider
Custodian: Rex Rutledge

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General Announcements

Congratulations to Reverend Doctor Ian McMichael on his completion of his Doctorate in Educational and Organizational Leadership! There will be a celebration at the Parsonage on Saturday, May 3rd, at 6:00 pm. All are welcome!

Mary Cocking will be hosting a new **Sunday morning Adult Bible Study, following Worship, starting on March 16th.** We will start with the importance of Reading the Bible, how we are commanded to be in constant study of God's word. Then we are going to read a book called "Sharing Jesus without freaking out" by Scott Hildreth to help us get over our fear of God's command to share the good news. All are Welcome!

The next **PAC Meeting will be Wednesday, April 16th**, at 11:15 am. All are Welcome!

Adult Bible Study with Pastor Ian is meeting on Wednesday's at 10:00 am. We are currently studying in Corinthian 1 and 2. All are welcome and you can join in at any time!

Peace Stitchers is an amazing ministry that supports Lutheran World Relief. The group meets on Wednesdays from 1:00-4:00 PM. You do not need to know how to sew to join!! There are other ways you can help and be part of the process. Questions? Please talk with Cathy Landers, Marilyn Wigen or Mary Cocking, or drop in sometime!

The **Annual Meeting** will take place on Sunday, May 18th

There will be a **graduation celebration** in recognition of our two high school seniors, Karly Wigen and MarcheLe McNeilly, on Sunday, May 11th.



In 2024, Peace Lutheran received \$807 in

Thrivent Choice Dollars® grant funding! If you are a Thrivent member, you are eligible to apply for these grants, up to \$250, by completing a simple online form! The grant funds can be used for many different ministries here at Peace. If you would like more information about how to get started, or assistance with the process, please reach out to Kristi!

Lent, Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday
Joint Worship at Trinity
Thursday, April 17th, 7:00 pm

-and/or-

Plymouth Congregational Church
321 S Main St
Thursday, April 17th at 12:00 pm.

Good Friday
Joint Worship at Peace
Friday, April 18th, 7:00 pm

Community Easter Egg Hunt at Trinity
Saturday, April 19th, 10:00 am

Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 20th
Worship at Peace, 9:00 am
Brunch at Peace, 10:00 am
Brunch at Trinity, 10:00 am (please indicate if you will be attending)
Worship at Trinity, 11:00 am

Easter Morning Breakfast will be hosted by Church Council.

A brunch style breakfast will be served following the 9:00 AM Worship Service.
If you plan to attend, please let us know by leaving this form in the offering plate,
or let the office know!

Family_____ No. of people:_____



By **Lisa Foust Prater**
Family & Farmstead Editor
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Bill Gross

Founder Bill Gross Reflects on 20 Years of Farm Rescue

More than 1,100 families facing an injury, illness, or natural disaster have received planting, harvesting, and livestock help at no charge.

When an injury, illness, or natural disaster threatens planting, harvesting, or livestock care, the future of the farm often lies in the hands of those willing to help.

For 20 years, Farm Rescue has come running to farmers in need, helping hundreds of families get through those tough times with an army of volunteers and a fleet of donated equipment. The service is completely free,

and funded by donations and sponsors.

Rural Roots

Farm Rescue Founder Bill Gross grew up on a cattle and crop farm in central North Dakota. Like many farm families, his faced challenges during the 1980s, which meant Gross needed to find a path for his future other than the farm.

He trained to become a pilot and has been a Boeing 747 captain for UPS for

more than 30 years, flying around the world. "But my heart never left the farming community, and I've always had a strong passion for the rural way of life," he said.

He also piloted mission trips for his church, including to Croatia and Romania. "But I felt there were people right here at home that needed help," he said. "And flying across the United States and looking down at the patchwork of farms, I always wonder how

those farmers and ranchers are doing, because I know the challenges my family experienced."

Acting on an Idea

During one long-haul flight to Australia for UPS, one of Gross' copilots asked what he planned to do when he retired. "I said: 'I'm going to get myself a big John Deere tractor and planter, and I'm going to go and start in my own home state of North Dakota, in the western part, and pull in early in the morning at 6 a.m. at a farm that looks like it's having a tough time. And I would get out and say, 'Put some fuel and seed and fertilizer in the planter, and I'll plant a few hundred acres for you free of charge,'" he recalled.

"The copilots laughed at that, and they thought it was kind of a crazy idea," Gross continued. "But I've been flying for almost 40 years total for my career, traveling to virtually every country in the world. When I retire, I don't want to travel anymore. Kind of the opposite of most people. I want to help people. I want to return to my roots. I want to farm because I didn't get that chance to farm on my own. So I came up with this idea called Farm Rescue."

A friend encouraged Gross not to wait until retirement to get started. In 2005, Gross started the nonprofit, and Farm Rescue was born. He began ➔



Listen to an interview with Bill Gross on the **15 Minutes With a Farmer Podcast**.



raising awareness and started fundraising at farm shows. The group helped its first family on April 11, 2006.

"We had five volunteers, including myself, a small amount of donations, one John Deere tractor and one planter to use for free, and that first year we helped 10 farm families," Gross recalled. "The first one was a young farmer in his 30s. Just two weeks earlier, he got his hand cut off in a grain auger in western North Dakota, and he had a little 2-month-old baby, and he had to plant his crop. So that was our first case. We came in, and we planted the crop for that farm family."

As word got out about Farm Rescue's mission, more people volunteered, sponsors and donors stepped up, and families in need continued

to apply for assistance. Now, the group has helped more than 1,100 families in nine states: Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Angels in Blue

Gross said the organization could not succeed without its volunteers, often referred to as "angels in blue" because of the uniforms they wear. More than 1,000 volunteers have served with Farm Rescue over the past 20 years.

"Farmers say the good Samaritan volunteers come in and take the burden off their shoulders and ease their worries, letting them know everything's going to be OK," Gross said. "A lot of the volunteers come back

year after year, some almost 20 years in a row. The people who financially support us often repeat every year too."

One reason the folks helped by Farm Rescue appreciate them so much is that the group doesn't just come in and take over. "People deserve respect," Gross said. "We do it the way they want it done, not the way we want it done. The way they want their farming done or their livestock fed. That is a high priority for us."

He says anyone inspired to help is welcome. "We always need semitruck drivers and CDL drivers, and there are things to do for people who aren't comfortable operating a tractor or combine," he said. "And of course, we need funding to keep the wheels turning for anyone who wishes to financially contribute."

The ripple effects of this kind of help go far beyond a single season.

"All kinds of things happen in farming," Gross said. "We've had cases where [farmers have] had a child with cancer, or they've lost limbs, or had a heart attack, breast cancer, brain tumors, broken necks, broken backs. And in all these cases, we've helped the family farm continue. It helps not only that family, but maybe their

children can continue the farm then, or maybe their children can go on to higher education without having to take on debt. It's good for the community. It's for the economic well-being of that small town in America. There's so many aspects to this."

Two Decades of Helping

Even with 20 years in the books, Farm Rescue is just getting started, with more families in the queue for assistance in 2025.

Recently, Gross was honored for his volunteerism with a Daily Point of Light Award. The award, founded by former President George H.W. Bush, recognizes individuals doing good things, inspiring others to volunteer.

"That was a great honor for myself and for our organization, and it's helping us to raise awareness for volunteers to come forward," Gross said.

Gross said he views community service as a way of life. "If you have an idea to do something to help people, don't procrastinate. Go ahead and start, find like-minded people, and do it," he advised. "If everyone truly made providing service a habit, it would make a huge difference in our world."

Learn more about Farm Rescue, including how to donate, volunteer, or apply for help, at farmrescue.org or (701) 252-2017. •

Your financial gifts can be received in a number of ways!

In addition to leaving your offering during in-person worship, we also have, Tithe.ly, our online giving platform, which can be found here:

https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1302894

You may also may also drop your offering in the mailbox at church or mail it to:
309 N Lake Street, Colfax, WA 99111

Birthdays and Anniversaries

1st- Kristi Nelson

2nd- Kate Schneider

6th - Bob Gillespie

Rex Rutledge

22nd - Dorothy Feldman

26th - Krista Boyd

3rd - Curt & Stephanie McNeilly (2004)

4th - Dan & Becky Hart (1987)

Sunday Attendance

Week 1 March 2	Week 2 March 9	Week 3 March 16	Week 4 March 23	Week 5 March 30
19	24	35	Trinity	27

Pastor's Message

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Genesis 1:1-2

Dear Members of Peace and Trinity,

I've written before about the lack of imagination I had as a child. When I was in kindergarten, my poor teacher finally had to offer up an ultimatum: I either play with the toys provided during free play time, or I could go clean the toilet. Although, even then I knew that Mrs. Rhodes wasn't serious (she remains one of my favorite teachers ever) I also never tested the theory. I found myself trying hard to play with toy rocket ships and animal farms.

Fast forward to fifth grade though, and I had gotten better at it. I still was not one for imagination, but I had gotten the playing part down. I played soccer in the street with my friends, jumped on the trampoline in the summer, shot hoops in the driveway, spent many Saturdays bowling and just generally had more of an appreciation for "playing" things that didn't necessarily require me to imagine a world that only existed in my mind. I was, and still am I think, a bit too logical. However, now I think that is to my detriment.

But there came a time, I still remember the phone call, when "playing" became "hanging out." I had a best friend all the way through middle and high school and at the beginning of sixth grade I remember calling my friend (on a landline!) to see if he wanted to "play." He said that he would love to do something together, and he would ask his mom if it was OK, but that it was better if we started calling our time together "hanging out" and not "playing." Mind you, whatever it was we were going to do was exactly the same whether we hung out or played. We both liked tennis. We both enjoyed competition. We both enjoyed being outside or walking to the movie theater. Whatever you called it, it didn't matter so much to me.

But I look back on that moment and wish I could go back to the time my friends and I truly played! I'll admit I was never the most creative, but there is, as I look back on it, a distinct shift that took place as hanging out became playing. I never liked the imaginary world, but growing that skill (which I never did very effectively) would have meant growing the skill of creativity, of joyful abandonment of responsibility, of pausing in the midst of chaos, of taking a break when I needed it.

Play is even biblical! Think about it! God played as God created the world. The world as it exists was completely imaginary, but through God's work, God's divine imagination, divine play, the world came to be as it is today. The trees, the birds, humans, and animals, all that exists came to be through God's mercy, but also through God's play. To lose the ability to play then is to lose connection with God.

I say all of that, obviously as one who still needs to work on that, but also as one who is going to try hard, as Spring is upon us, to use the renewed light, the renewing of creation, to get creative. To pause. To play. To hope for and partake in God's hope for a better world. And to play with abandonment in the certain hope that what is now is not all that there is. What is to come is more than we could ever ask or imagine. Go play!

Peace,
Pastor Ian