

May 2025



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

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# General Announcements

**Adult Bible Study with Pastor Ian** has concluded for the summer! Thank you to all who attended!

**Thank you to the Church Council members for hosting Easter Morning Breakfast! Special shout out to Cathy Landers for organizing and Mary Ann, Rex and Cathy for setting up.**

**THANK YOU to those who came and pulled weeds outside the church!!!!**

**Spring litter clean-up** is scheduled for Saturday, May 17. We will meet at the church at 10:00 am and carpool to the Fairgrounds. It doesn't take long with enough of us helping!

**The Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, May 18th.** We will also hold elections for Church Council positions for the coming year.

There will be a **graduation celebration** in recognition of our high school seniors, Karly Wigen, MarcheLe McNeilly, and Grace Jones on Sunday, May 11th. Please be sure and check the kiosk to see KayLnn Misner's high school graduation announcement and reception/college information! Congratulations to all!

Mary Cocking is currently hosting a **Sunday morning Adult Bible Study**, following Worship. We are reading 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!

**Pastor Ian's phone number** has changed (to one which was his previous number!) He will now be using 541-571-6183 exclusively. Please make a note of this however you store your contacts!

**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 next PAC** (Peace Action Committee) meeting will be May 7th at 11:00 am. All are welcome! Come hear about our partnership with the Colfax Chamber, including attending the upcoming Summer Farmers Market and Movies in the Park.

**Thank you to ALL who helped make Children's Sunday School a success this school year!! We appreciate each and every one of you!**

## Time For Stories

Bishop Meggan Manlove

Octopuses have had an excellent few years in pop culture. In 2020 there was the inspiring documentary, *My Octopus Teacher*. Two years later, Shelby Van Pelt's novel *Remarkably Bright Creatures* became a best seller (I have not read it yet). My favorite story starring an octopus is a children's picture book I adored as a kid, *Herman the Helper* by Robert Kraus. I thought of this book during our Synod Council meeting when our guest Karen Kretschmann, ELCA Coordinator for Storytelling Engagement, invited us to think of a story from our lives or a children's story. The illustrations and characters came flooding back so clearly with her prompting. As the title implies, a youth green octopus named Herman spends his entire day helping sea creatures. I have been trying hard to figure out why I absolutely loved that book—so much so that eventually I was given my own copy, instead of going back to the library. Like many children's books about young people or animals, the author simply invited young readers to relate to Herman. The surprising creatures Herman ended up helping also opened my own imagination.

Stories and storytelling can be tools for so many facets of ministry. Stories can help people heal from wounds, even trauma. Stories can help with financial stewardship. Stories can help us teach lessons or learn. Stories can be incorporated into the proclamation of the gospel. Stories can help us build new relationships and strengthen old relationships. Stories can give us hope and help us in imparting hope. Stories invite us to be part of something bigger than ourselves.

Storytelling can be professional, polished, poetic, and witty. On the one hand, telling stories is like other skills, meaning that we can practice and get better. I can absolutely identify several of the more gifted storytellers in my life. On the other hand, every single person has a story to tell and, often with simple questions, that story can be released to the listener. After all, stories go nowhere without a listener.

One of my favorite questions that I ask around fellowship hall tables or in a narthex before worship begins is, “how did you end up worshiping with this community?” Sometimes the person I ask moved to a town or neighborhood and found the ELCA congregation. Then I ask a follow up about why they stayed or why they would invite a friend to this congregation. Much more often I get a story about their family’s needs, or a friend who invited them, or a unique ministry they noticed, or separation from another community of faith and landing here. These are holy stories, and I thank you if you have shared yours with me. Do you know how everyone in your congregation ended up there? How could knowing more of those stories deepen relationships with one another and with the God we worship?

We are about to encounter again a story central to our faith and discipleship—the story of Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection. I always find it humbling to ponder how much of this story to explain, how much to let it speak for itself, how much to correct misinterpretations, and what exactly to proclaim. During Holy Week, I was and am grateful that stories are not just in our heads. We embody the stories during Holy Week: processing, washing, feasting, baptizing, singing, reading aloud, praying together, and more. Blessings as you together encounter this amazing story anew this spring.

Peace,  
Bishop Meggan

**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](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*

2nd - Steve Teade

Jill Whelchel

17th - Karly Wigen

18th- Liam Nelson

20th - Vic Roberts

24th - Milt Klettke

29th - Peggy Kehne

31st - Timothy Cornelius

## Sunday Attendance

Week 1 April 6	Week 2 April 13	Week 3 April 20	Week 4 April 27
22	40	85	12

## **PLC Treasurer's Summary Report**

**04/30/2025**

## **PLC Treasurer's Summary Report**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b>Regular Offerings</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$ 33,081</b>
<b>Funds transferred from other accounts for non-budgeted expenses/Grants</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3200 -</b>
<b>Total offerings available for expenses</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$36,281</b>
<b>Budgeted Expenditures</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$ 41,120</b>
<b>Non-Budgeted Expenditures/Refunds</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 41,120</b>
<b>Net Balance</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>4.839</b>

# Pastor's Message

"We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."

Romans 8:28

Dear Members of Peace and Trinity,

May is often seen as a time of transition. The weather finally seems to be on the upward trajectory and the cooler days give way to the heatwaves we know are on the way. The fields continue to grow in anticipation of harvest later this summer. Students end the school year. Seniors look forward to the next phase of life, which often looks nothing like the last one, even if they do not head off to college. Other students look forward to summer, whether that is a summer job, a chance to relax, or a summer full of various camps. People in general seem to wake from their winter hibernation and head outside after the long, cold, dark, days of Winter.

Now, some of this is just the yearly rhythm of life. In my life, I know that summer often means some form of vacation, a quieter season with no Bible Studies and fewer meetings. It also means prep for various things coming up in the next year that I may not have as much time to plan when the kids are back in school and Fall soccer season rolls around once again. For farmers, the yearly rhythm of life is often baked into the weather and when the crops will be ready to pluck out of the ground with the big red or green combines.

But there are also the transitions of life that are not part of the annual rhythm. There are new jobs to be had, babies to be born, graduations, other schools to attend, moving, entering the workforce, getting married, getting divorced, becoming empty nesters and so much more. Transitions are not always welcome, and even when they are there is still a tinge of sadness in what once was. In transition, we acknowledge that what was, will never be again in quite the same way, even if something good lies on the other side.

No matter the transition, whether it be a pattern of life, or a transition into the unknown, whether we are more scared about what is happening or excited about what could be, no matter what, God has promised us that all things work together for good, according to God's purpose. That does not mean that all transitions are good. That does not mean that

we want it to happen. It does mean, good or bad, that God can use it, and us, to glorify God's magnificent purpose. So, in the season of transition, be intentional about how God is using each of us to glorify God's purpose, and how we can spread that Good News to the world around us. When anxiety hits in the middle of those scary changes, and when the joy reaches new levels when we finally hear some good news, God is with us. God will use it to proclaim to the world that it is loved. That we are loved.

May your season of transition, big or small, be one in which you can see God and work. May you then be given the courage to tell the world about it.

Peace,  
Pastor Ian