

*Peace Lutheran Church*

# April 2021 NEWSLETTER

## Where Everybody is Somebody Because Jesus Christ is Lord!



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

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## General Announcements

**Remember in your prayers:** Robin Jones, Dorothy Feldman, Milt Klettke, Queenie Leinweber, Lyndell Repp, Katie Schmick, Tim Silvernale, Ed Collison (Nick Cocking's father-in-law) Jim, Deb and Pam Repp, Mike Hanson, and Cozy Lueck.

**Pastor Ian will be on Vacation** April 26- May 7, 2021. Pastor Jeannette Solimine will be covering Sunday May 2 and she, and Pastor Wes from Trinity, Pullman, are available throughout the week to assist with any needs that arise. You may also contact the church office.

**The Annual Meeting** is scheduled for **Sunday, May 23rd** at 10:00 am, following the 9:00 am service. We will provide a zoom link for anyone not attending in-person.

**Special Thanks** to Kathy Carr, Kristi Nelson and Karly Wigen for their work on the Easter goodie bags that were distributed after the Easter service. Also to Marv and Marilyn Wigen for upkeep of our bulletin board, Kent Miller for changing out the Paraments and Mary Ann Wigen for the floral arrangements. Additionally, a big thank you to Rex Rutledge for shampooing the carpets throughout the church this month!

### **\*SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT\***

The Rev. Dr. Rick Bliese will be with us via Zoom on Sunday April 11th at 4PM to talk about creating safe and generative spaces for difficult conversations from a distinctly Lutheran lens. He is the former President of Luther Seminary in Minneapolis, MN and currently the Associate Pastor for Education at Emmanuel Lutheran, Naples, FL. He has vast experience in Lutheran theology and leading hard discussions. Please join us either in-person at Peace or on Zoom.

## Sunday Attendance

<b>Week 1</b> March 7	<b>Week 2</b> March 14	<b>Week 3</b> March 21	<b>Week 4</b> March 28	
12	10	19	30	

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### April Birthdays

1st- Kristi Nelson  
4th- Erin Young  
6th- Bob Gillespie  
Rex Rutledge  
22nd- Dorothy Feldman  
26th- Krista Boyd  
30th- Lloyd Johnson

### Anniversaries

3rd- Curt & Stephanie McNeilly (2004)  
4th- Dan & Becky Hart (1987)  
15th- Colby & Chelsey Cocking (2011)



# Pastor's Message

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

**12** For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. **13** For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. **14** Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. **15** If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. **16** And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. **17** If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? **18** But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. **19** If all were a single member, where would the body be? **20** As it is, there are many members, yet one body. **21** The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” **22** On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, **23** and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; **24** whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, **25** that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. **26** If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. **27** Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Dear Siblings in Christ,

I'm proud of us! A month ago or so, a group of you came to me and we discussed the current state of the country and the church. It was from that conversation that it was decided that further conversation would be warranted. The deliberative dialogue was born! Last month, a group of fourteen people gathered, half on Zoom and half in-person, to discuss political divisiveness and what we would be willing to do to change the trajectory of this country. We discussed what our common values are and what pros and cons there are when it comes to various options for toning down harmful rhetoric. We used the guide produced by the nonpartisan National Issues Forums to guide our discussion. Liberals were there. Conservatives were there. Much more importantly, children of God were there. It was truly one of the most lifegiving things that I have done in a long time. I want to take the opportunity to do two things. First, I want to say thank you

to those of you who participated. Second, I want to invite those of you who did not have the chance to, to come talk to me! If there is enough interest we can certainly do it again.

**It was decided at the end of our dialogue that there was still, in fact, much more to be learned. To that end, I have asked the former President of Lutheran Seminary in Minneapolis and current Associate Pastor at Emmanuel Lutheran in Naples, FL, Rev. Dr. Rick Bliese to join us for an evening presentation on creating safe and generative spaces for difficult conversations. Pastor Rick does this from a distinctly Lutheran lens. He is a Lutheran scholar and all around good guy. Come here how Lutherans understand our call in the world. He has been doing some wonderful work at Emmanuel Lutheran in Naples, FL and I am excited to hear about his experience and what might be possible here. I am so grateful he has accepted the offer to spend some time with us. This presentation and Q&A session will take place April 11th at 4PM. Look for a Zoom link if you would like to join that way. We will have the big screen set up and would love as many of you as possible to take part in this incredibly unique opportunity. Whatever you can do to make this a priority in your life, I do not think you will be disappointed!**

Our reading for Corinthians makes it clear that we are different people. We have different experiences that have led to different outcomes. We live in different places and have different priorities. It is only natural that political differences exist. If I am a hand and you are a foot, however, our job is not to find superficial similarities to make ourselves feel accomplished. Our job is to dive deep, to appreciate the work of the other parts of the body, to explore what it might be like to walk in someone else's shoes. In that deep dive there will be connection points. There will be similarities. There will be commonalities. It is there that we will see our true identities as children of God, nothing more and nothing less. It is in the experience of doing just that where God is most wholly and visibly present. If we can't have these conversations in the church, I'm not sure we can have them anywhere. That's why it is so important. Again, please make an effort to come here Pastor Rick. Be curious and ready to ask questions. Come ready to learn! I promise you will not leave disappointed!

If you have any questions, please reach out! I would love to hear from you.

Peace,

Pastor Ian

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Church Members! We need YOU to join church council!  
There is an immediate need to fill the President's role as our current President's term is ending in May. We are also looking to fill the Education Chair and Property Chair in May. If you are not sure what serving on council entails, please speak with Pastor Ian! Please give prayerful consideration as to how you can serve in a meaningful way and let your voice do His work!

## Message from NWIMS- Pastor Phil Misner

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; Come into God's presence with singing. ~ Psalm 100:1-2~ Singing is a great joy. Ask those in my family, however, and they will let you know I am certainly not the best singer in the group. I struggle mightily matching the tone of my voice to what my ear is picking up around me. That is a long way of saying, I tend to sing off-key and a bit too loudly...especially when I get carried away. I inherited that trait from my father, whose singing in church would make my siblings and I awkwardly look down or around, hoping no one else is picking up what our dad was belting out. That being said, I do love sing even if the song that comes from my mouth is more of a joyful noise. It's no surprise that scripture encourages us to sing again and again. Even if we engage in song in imperfect ways, it seems to unlock something within us. Spirit Family Reunion, a blue-grassy band that describes their music as open gospel, shared this bit of insight during their Tiny Desk Concert back in 2012: "Now when we are singing together, we are shining a light of all the dark places between us, and there's many." That's the truth. There is much darkness in the world; and within me; and between you and me. The season of Lent is, for one thing, an opportunity to be honest about that darkness... and thereby also begin to shine some light on it. Lent for us in the northern regions of the globe takes place during the season of spring (the word itself has its roots in the Old English word for spring, lencten). This spring, I am mindful of the returning birds, whose songs accompany my waking each day. Their song, joining ours and the song of creation, in praise of God. Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; Come into God's presence with singing. ~ Psalm 100:1-2~

