

Peace Lutheran Church

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Where Everybody is Somebody Because Jesus Christ is Lord!



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

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 SUN 26 9:00 Worship	MON 27	TUE 28	WED 29	THU 30	FRI 31	SAT Aug 1
9:00 Worship 2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:00 Worship 9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:00 Worship 16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:00 Worship 23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:00 Worship 30	31	Sep 1	2	3	4	5

Psalm 47:1-4

*Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.
For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome,
a great king over all the earth.
He subdued peoples under us,
and nations under our feet.
He chose our heritage for us,
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.*

Dear Siblings in Christ,

I write today with joy in my heart, clapping my hands and shouting praise to God.

It seems like it was a long time ago when I wrote a newsletter announcing that Corrin and I were expecting another little one. I was going to announce the news in a sermon on March 22nd, but then we moved to online worship on the 15th and are just now getting back into some sort of semi-regular rhythm. The best laid plans...! At the time, the birth seemed far off, in the distant future. Six months is a long time! But, as we all know at this point, quarantine time is different. Now, all of the sudden, Corrin's due date is only 2 months away! We are overjoyed to be welcoming a healthy baby girl into the world!

With that in mind, it is important to pass along a couple of important updates. Corrin's due date is September 30th. Pastor Jeannette has graciously agreed to cover Sunday mornings for six weeks sometime between mid September and the end of November. Most, if not all, of that time, I will be home in Endicott with my family and welcoming the new addition to the world! However, I will not be attending worship, meetings or doing visitation. Pastor Jeannette has agreed to cover pastor emergencies and other duties as they arise during that time. I would certainly appreciate being in the loop as things develop at either congregation. However, I should also tell you that I will not be very responsive during this time. That does not mean I don't value the emails or phone calls, the well-wishes and the council meeting minutes. Mostly, it just means I will be sleep deprived and unable to put coherent communication together. I'm sure many of you know what that is like!

Both of the councils have my full confidence. Between them and Pastor Jeannette, things are set up to run smoothly! If you have any questions, please feel free to pass them along. Questions can help me pin down exactly what these six weeks need to look like for both congregations as well as myself and my family.

Happy to be on this journey with you!

Peace,
Pastor Ian

Birthdays

- 1st - Lola Gillespie
- 2nd - Christine Henning
- 4th - Jim Repp
- 7th - Colby Cocking
Sara Whelchel
- 10th - Lorraine Gerlitz
- 11th - Marisa Wigen
- 13th - Kacy Kincaid
- 15th - Wayne Henning
- 17th - Marsha Binder
- 18th - Jim Berdal
- 20th - Cathy Landers
Kent Miller
- 21st - Annie Larkin
- 31st - Jon Kehne

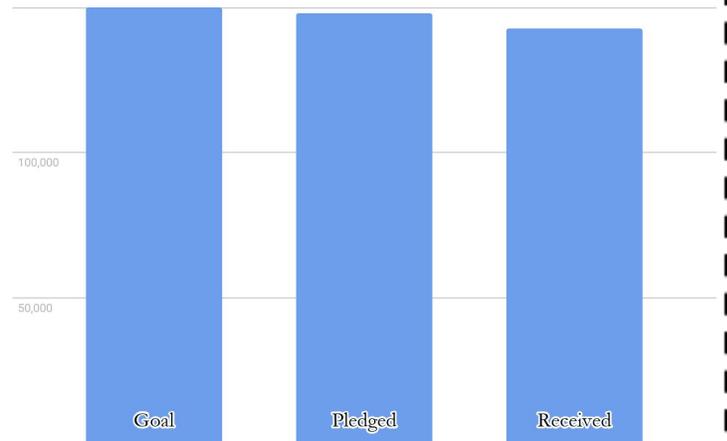
Anniversaries

- 15th - Chad & Marne Maki (1992)

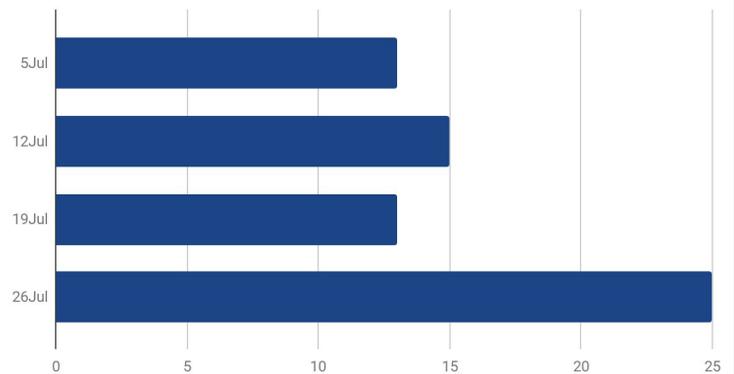
Growing into God's Future

Campaign News

With less than a year left of the capital campaign, we are inching closer to our goal of \$150,000. As of the end of July, we have raised \$142,541.



Sunday Attendance



ELCA Joins Ecumenical, Interreligious Partners in Calling On the Turkish Government to Maintain Hagia Sophia as a Unifying Heritage Site

7/14/2020 4:00:00 PM

Hear the voice of my supplication, as I cry to you for help, as I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctuary

(Psalm 28:2).

On Friday, July 10, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of Turkey announced his decision to convert the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul from its long-term status as a museum to a mosque. This decision will have negative repercussions on interreligious dialogue and coexistence worldwide. As the Byzantine structure was originally the pre-eminent basilica of the Christian world for nearly one thousand years, its announced change of purpose is also a source of significant pain for the Orthodox Christian family.

"As a church, we join with our Christian family and our Muslim neighbors in calling for the Hagia Sophia to remain a museum," said ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. "Turning it back into a mosque is not only a return to divisive history but an erasure of a living religious and spiritual expression. The whole human family stands to benefit when the Hagia Sophia serves not only as a site for holy pilgrimage but as a sacred place for encounter and exchange among peoples of different religions and cultures."

Since Erdoğan's announcement, the [World Council of Churches](#), the [Middle East Council of Churches](#), the [Ecumenical Patriarchate](#) and Orthodox Churches worldwide, the [Vatican](#), and the [National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA](#) have decried the decision and called for its reversal. The voices of Christians worldwide are united in lament, prayer and protest.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) joins the global ecumenical family in calling on the Turkish government to maintain the Hagia Sophia as a museum rather than converting it into a mosque. Heeding the call of [His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros](#) of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, we urge our elected leaders to appeal to the Turkish government to maintain the status quo for the Hagia Sophia, which "allows for the peaceful and harmonious cohabitation of nations, religions, races, and ethnicities."

The [Islamic Society of North America](#), a key interreligious partner of the ELCA, has also condemned this action as a threat to peaceful relations and dialogue between Christians and Muslims. ISNA President Dr. Sayyid Syeed wrote, "We need to work together to convince President Erdoğan not to convert Hagia Sophia into a mosque in Istanbul. It is clear that our Islamic texts and the practice of the

Prophet and his rightly guided Caliphs define the role of Islam as the protector of others' holy places."

"We hear the cries of those who seek God's help, and join in solidarity with all people who are committed to safeguarding this sanctuary's unifying purpose," said Bishop Eaton. "As the Christian family, and with our Muslim neighbors, we are united in our efforts to thwart that which would seek to divide us."