

Peace Lutheran Church

March 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

NW Intermountain Synod Assembly meeting will be held *virtually* on Saturday, April 24, 2021. Our congregation representatives attending will be Pastor Ian, Rex Rutledge and Gail Webster. Thank you!

Church Council is looking to fill two open positions: Vice President and Education. Please prayerfully consider serving in one of these roles. Filling the position of the Vice President is of utmost importance as our current President will end their term this coming May. Council meets once a month via ZOOM. If you would like to learn more about the serving on Council, please talk with Pastor Ian! *“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”* 1 Peter 4:10

Lent midweek services will be held on ZOOM at 7:00 pm.. The first 30 minutes (7:00-7:30) will be a bible study and the last 30 minutes (7:30-8:00) will be the worship service. The ZOOM link is provided in the weekly worship email, and can also be found on the church’s website and Facebook page..

Holy Week and Easter Sunday plans are underway. More information, including a sign up sheet for Easter Service, will be sent out in the weekly emails this month.

Prayer Chain If you would like to be added to the prayer chain or if you have anyone who needs to be prayed for, please contact Pastor Ian or the church office.

Remember in your prayers: Robin Jones, Dorothy Feldman, Milt Klettke, Queenie Leinweber, Lyndell Repp, Katie Schmick, Tim Silvernale (Mary Cockings Brother), Connie Silvernale (Mary Cocking’s sister-in-law), Jim Repp, Jim, Deb and Pam Repp, Mike Hanson, and Sofie Colyar.

Budget Updates

	<u>Last Month</u>	<u>This Month</u>	<u>2021 YTD</u>
Regular Offerings	\$10,899	\$5,416	\$16,315
Budgeted Expenditures	\$11,551	\$10,619	\$22,170
Non-Budgeted Expenditures	\$ 351	\$ 101	\$ 452
Net Balance	\$ (1,003)	\$ (5,304)	\$ (6,307)

If you have not picked up your offering envelopes, please call the office to make arrangements: 397-2121

Sunday Attendance

Week 1 Feb 7	Week 2 Feb 14	Week 3 Feb 21	Week 4 Feb 28	
10	12	14	12	

Pastor's Message

1 Corinthians 1:4-9

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— 6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— 7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He

will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Dear People of Peace and Trinity,

On March 5th, we celebrate Employee Appreciation Day! I wanted to take this chance to give thanks for the wonderful staff that you have here at Peace and Trinity. If you get a chance, stop by and give these people an elbow pump, write them a card or bring them a coffee. Both churches would not be able to do what they do without the tireless efforts of the following people. The words of Paul in 1 Corinthians ring very true to me every day as I have the pleasure of working with them. I give thanks to God for them!

Kristi Nelson--She started a job in the middle of a pandemic and has been doing excellent work ever since. I appreciate her ability to problem solve and her ability to ask questions when things don't make sense. She is willing to tackle things, learn, seek people out and suggest changes. All wonderful qualities! She also has the ability to ask the right question at the right time that will get me thinking about what is coming next. She has made changes to some aspects of the office and made other parts more efficient. We could not have found a better person to fill this role! I am grateful. Thanks, Kristi!

Rex Rutledge--Not that too many people go wandering around the church basement very often, but if you do, you will realize that Rex has put in some work down there. Things are organized. Rooms are looking clean. Again, I am grateful. I'm especially thankful that Rex has taken so seriously his role of cleaning after services on Sunday. During COVID-19, I am completely confident that the sanctuary is ready to go each Sunday because I know Rex has spent time in there doing what needs done. He sees things that need done and does them, or he drives from Pullman to unlock the door so that a professional can get in and do the work. I am grateful for his willingness to work and his consistently humble attitude. Thanks, Rex!

Kate Schneider--As you all know, Kate is great! Oftentimes, it is just Kate, Rex and I at church at about 8:30 so Kate will break out her show tunes and entertain us. My favorite is when she plays the movie score from Harry Potter, although Pirates of the Caribbean is a close second. More than this though, Kate is willing to go above and beyond her role as church musician. Did you all see that Christmas Eve worship video that she volunteered to put together? Awesome stuff! She is planned, prepared and always ready to try something new. I'm excited to see where Peace's music can go in this next year, in large part thanks to Kate and her abilities! Again, I am grateful. Thanks, Kate!

Barbara Strader--This is a woman with a plan! She has a wonderful ability to always keep me on track. I consider myself to be a pretty plan-in-advance kind of person, but Barb puts me to shame! She reminds me to plan Christmas in October and I could not be more appreciative. She is always willing to drop whatever she is doing and answer my questions or send me documents or give me some history. I can always count on her to give an honest, constructive opinion. I found out rather quickly that if I needed an answer and no one knew, it was probably time to ask Barb! Again, I'm grateful to have her at the church and as a neighbor. Thanks, Barb!

Rhondi West--Rhondi joined us right around COVID-19 times and has been rocking it ever since. The church looks as it should each Sunday and for that I am, again, grateful. In addition, I appreciate Rhondi's ability to communicate and make sure that people know what is going on. You can always tell when Rhondi has been in a room because it just looks better than it did yesterday, even if you can't tell exactly why. That is a skill! Thanks, Rhondi!

Louise Owen--Louise isn't on payroll but has been taking over the bulk of organ duties the last year and a half! I always make sure to run hymns by her for the upcoming Sundays so she can give me the history and we can make sure the congregation knows it. Sometimes I throw a new hymn in there because, well, I like it! At that point Louise is always up to the challenge of playing the new hymn and helping others to learn it. She volunteers and/or plans much of what happens at Trinity and for all of that, yet again, I am grateful! Thanks, Louise!

Again, take the chance to send an email or a card to these people this month and simply say thank you! They are doing good work that is often behind the scenes, but I promise you, if things run smoothly, chances are they all played a large part in it! Give thanks, each day and every day!

Peace,
Pastor Ian

March Birthdays

2nd - Marlee Conklin
8th - MarcheLe McNeilly
10th - Julie Kincaid
14th - Ethan Smith
17th - Alison Larkin
25th - Russ Jamison
26th - Gabe Cocking
28th- Corrin McMichael

Anniversaries

21st - Kent & Diane Miller (1992)
28th - Jody & Krista Boyd (1987)



1. To grow in your relationship with Christ.
2. To discover purpose and feel fulfilled.
3. To use your skills and talents for the Kingdom.
4. Out of obedience to Jesus.
5. To follow Jesus' example.
6. To join the mission of the church.

7. Your vision is compelling.

8. To find community in relationships with others.

9. There is joy in loving people and giving back.

10. Serving can be fun.

Bishop's Message

We come back around to March.

March 2020 was when our worlds shifted dramatically, when horizons shrank, and much of our lives became ruled by something called “Zoom”.

I confess to you, people of God, I am tired. I am tired of Zoom. I am tired of my house. I'm even tired of only seeing my family face-to-face. As an introvert, I lasted longer than some. But the other day I found myself thinking longingly of airport security check lines, and that was when I knew that COVID had broken me.

We come back around to Lent.

Lent 2020 was when we were told we would shut down for 2 weeks (!) and everything would be fine. And then everything would be back by Easter. Then Pentecost. Then September. Then we kind of stopped guessing.

Between you and me: it feels like Lent 2020 never left. We just tried to pretend that it did.

Lent is intended to be a season of reflection and repentance. We certainly have done some reflecting and repenting in the last twelve months! We have struggled with one another—over masks, over in-person worship, over singing, over air circulation—in 2020 we learned that we are excellent at finding ways to be in conflict with one another even

over Zoom. We are born children of a fallen humanity, and these 12 months have done nothing to change that.

Lent is also a time of struggle. To struggle with what it means to be people of God in a world that is convulsing at the rate of change—societal change, political change, climate change, educational discrepancy, income inequality, and more. We have struggled to know how to use our voices, when to take a stand, when to keep silent. In speaking out, we enrage some. In keeping silent, we enrage others. What is the right path for us to be on, as individuals, as congregations, and as the Church? Are the Church and her leaders called to be apolitical? Does this match the behavior of Jesus in the Gospels? How do we function together when the World outside is telling us that anyone who disagrees with us is a sheep? Or evil? Or bent on our destruction?

But Lent is also a time to search for God. To rely on God in a wilderness, to trust in God even when it would be easier to go our own ways. And we have searched for and found God—through unexpectedly holy moments during Facebook live; through regular worship opportunities with our friends in Tanzania (we never would have tried that, had COVID not forced our hands); through ways God used digital worship to reach those who do not enter our church buildings, but are seeking God just like we are.

Lent is not intended to be an easy season. And we've had a full year of it—and even though there is hope now that wasn't here six months ago, we are still far from life as “normal”. There are those among us (myself included) who wonder if “normal” is really what we should return to after a year as chaotic as this one—or if this year was a gift, intended to show us what needs to be let go, and what needs to be made new, to move into the future Church. I have no answers—certainly no easy ones—but I know that the God who has sustained us through the perils of 2020 will continue to be with us through whatever 2021 brings. My prayer is that it brings us life where we expected death. Joy where we expected despair. Laughter where we expected tears. My prayer is that after a year of Lent, we will see Easter.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bishop Kristen Kuempel". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light yellow rectangular background.

Bishop Kristen Kuempel

