

Peace Lutheran Church

NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Where Everybody is Somebody Because Jesus Christ is Lord!



Ministers: The Congregation
Pastor: Ian McMichael
Church Secretary: Mary Cocking, temporary
Pianist: Kate Schneider
Custodian: Rex Rutledge

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Daily Bread Matching Grants: In response to COVID-19 and the increasing need for direct support of communities facing hunger, ELCA World Hunger officially launched Daily Bread Matching Grants this past spring. ELCA World Hunger is happy to announce another round of Daily Bread Matching Grants taking place this fall! More than 300 Daily Bread Matching Grants will be available for ELCA congregations on a first-come, first-served basis. However, priority will be given to congregations that were unable to participate in the last cycle due to capacity, and to congregations that are members of ELCA ethnic-specific and multicultural ministry networks or are priority congregations as identified by synods. If you are interested in planning an event for our congregation to participate in this desperate need, please go online to [ELCA.org/dailybread](https://elca.org/dailybread) to learn more and apply.

Virtual Sunday School: Since just about nothing looks normal this year, we will be beginning Sunday School for the kids in an online format. Members of the church have come up with some really great ideas that will engage the kids, help them learn about God and keep them connected, even as we are apart! The curriculum this year includes podcasts, videos, Facebook groups, crafts and children's sermons. All things that can be done at home, whenever you have some spare time. The kids don't have to be physically near Colfax to benefit. If your kids would like to participate, or if you know of others who have kids who may be interested, please contact the church office! Strange times call for innovative solutions, and this is one of the ways that God is calling us into a new future! Come learn with us!

Pastor Ian is on Family Leave to help care for his young family until November 19th. Reverend Jeannette Solimine will be filling in until Pastor's return. Thank you, Reverend Jeannette!

Community Garden Cleanup: Thank you to all those who assisted in putting our Community Garden to bed on Saturday, October 31st!

Lutherhaven's Give Thanks Volunteer Weekend: Lutherhaven's annual "Give Thanks" weekend is November 13-14! Head up to camp on Friday for fellowship around the campfire, family games, and a night under the stars in your cozy log cabin or RV space. On Saturday, join us for meaningful service projects around camp and a hearty meal to close out the day. Sign up today to reserve your spot at <https://lutherhaven.com/give-thanks-weekend/>.

WINTER/CHRISTMAS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES



Family Promise of the Palouse Coat Drive: Winter is coming fast, and there are many families without sufficient winter coats around the Palouse. Family Promise is needing coats for the many families that come through their door. Please consider donating any gently used coats you may have in your closets that you no longer need, or bring in any new ones you find on great sales this time of year! They are accepting ALL SIZES in mens, womens and childrens. Help keep our community warm this winter! The Coat Drive runs from now until Dec. 4. Please bring any donations to the church. Any questions, contact Mary Cocking.

Family Promise of the Palouse MOD PIZZA Fundraiser: In previous years, Family Promise has had a Cook Off for their fundraiser, but due to COVID, a new fundraiser is their way of increasing funds for families currently living in their cars or on a neighbor's couch. Please plan to dine out this next Wednesday, November 11, at **MOD PIZZA** in Moscow, Idaho and 20% of your bill will be donated to Family Promise to help these families! Please take the included flyer with you or mention Family Promise of the Palouse fundraiser to help families in need.

Avenues For Hope Housing Challenge: If you are unable to help with the MOD PIZZA fundraiser, or are interested in helping with both fundraisers, here is another way to help fund Family Promise with the homeless families on the Palouse. From December 10-31st, Donations of \$25.00 or more will be *increased by 35%* through the **Avenues for Hope Housing Challenge** that is sponsored by the Home Partnership Foundation. To do so, you can either send a check to Family Promise, P.O. Box 9389, Moscow, ID 83843, or go online to: <https://www.avenuesforhope.org/organizations/family-promise-of-the-palouse>. At FPP, for every \$1 donated they are able to provide the families with \$3 worth of goods and services thanks to amazing volunteers. With your help, Family Promise will achieve their goal of raising \$50,000 in this campaign season. Give Hope this Christmas to Families in Need.

ELCA Good Gifts Catalog 2020: As members of the ELCA, we believe that God's love in Jesus is a gift. ELCA Good Gifts is just one way you can share that love with others. The 2020 Christmas gift catalog is now available either at the church in the narthex, or online at ELCA.org/goodgifts. Whether you choose to donate funds for safe clean water, goats and a flock of chicks or other farm animals, send young girls to school or donate school supply funds, help purchase seeds or gardening tools, provide mosquito nets, vaccinations or help stock a health clinic, needs are great in third world countries. Please consider a percentage of your Christmas budget to God's work.

The Prayer Chain has begun actively once again. If you would like to be added to the chain or if you have anyone who needs to be prayed for, please contact Pastor Ian and let him know.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Robin Jones, Dorothy Feldman, Chuck Carroll, Milt Klettke, Gary Feldman, Queenie Leinweber, Lyndell Repp, Katie Schmick, Tim Silvernale (Mary Cockings Brother), Connie Silvernale (Mary Cocking's sister-in-law), Jim Repp, Tyler Greenwalt, Donna McPherson, Jim, Deb and Pam Repp, Mike Hanson and Sofie Colyar.

October General Offerings:

Oct. 4	\$3,257.03
Oct. 11	1,620.16
Oct. 18	500.00
Oct. 25	<u>2,389.55</u>
Total Income	\$7,766.74

COUNCIL APPROVED

EXPENDITURES FOR AUGUST **\$8,025.07**

YEAR TO DATE EXPENDITURES APPROVED BY COUNCIL (through Oct. 31)

General Offerings	\$ 73,795.82
Expenditures	<u>97,237.22</u>
Excess (Deficiency)	\$ -23,441.40

THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE - The November issue of Living Lutheran has arrived at the church. Feel free to pick one up in the church narthex during the week when the building is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays during business hours, or on Sundays after service.

Pastor's Message

Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Dear Siblings in Christ,

November opens each year with a wonderful reason to give thanks: All Saints' Day. Then, at the end of the month, we have another reason to celebrate, as Thanksgiving arrives. In one, we give thanks for the cloud of witnesses that has, and will continue to surround us on our faith journeys. We give thanks for the ways that these saints lived, learned, loved, laughed and gave of themselves in order to live out their vocations. Each of them, in their own unique ways, teach us about God. At Thanksgiving, it is not uncommon for the meal to begin with a prayer followed by going around the table so that each person can say what they are thankful for. Many of the answers I have heard include family, friends, a new house, good food, a good job, an answered prayer, nicer new things, a well deserved raise or simply the ability to be around the dinner table with people we care about. We give thanks.

One thing that we do not often give thanks for is suffering. The suffering of our individual selves or the sufferings of the society in which we live. As humans, we have been taught to value self-preservation and the ability to reason. Reason would tell us that there is no reason to give thanks for suffering. If we could not suffer, that would be better! However, Paul posits something different in his letter to the Romans. How and why do we give thanks for suffering? By recognizing that suffering produces endurance, which produces character which in turn produces hope. Hope is the thing that will never disappoint us. Suffering can lead to hope.

This year has been full of suffering. The year 2020, on a grand scale, has led to more suffering than any other year in my life. There is the macro suffering that we see every day in the news. 210,000+ people have died from COVID-19 at the time of this writing. There is deep pain in the individual families who have lost loved ones. There is a deep pain in our society as we continue to see the total rise. There is suffering. We also recognize the toll that this has taken on individuals in our community, even if they have not been directly diagnosed with COVID-19. Small businesses are struggling to stay afloat. Every day a new, seemingly immortal, chain of stores files for bankruptcy, teachers and students are not learning in "normal" ways, people are not able to visit their loved ones in nursing homes, churches are going virtual and then in-person and then virtual again. Everyone is trying to respond to a new reality in which no one has the answer. Well, of course God does, but the point still stands that suffering is real. That much is obvious.

And now the good Lutheran question: So what does this mean? That we should invite suffering with open arms because it produces hope in the end? That we should hope to suffer more than others? That we should ignore our own suffering and simply say that it is "our cross to bear?" Even worse, that it is OK to inflict suffering? I don't think any of these explanations are faithful

witnesses to what Paul really means. Paul doesn't mean that we should hope to suffer. That we are somehow more holy when we do suffer. No. Paul means that Christ can work through suffering, just like Christ can work through anything else. Christ can take your suffering, my suffering and the suffering of the world and create something new.

Maybe the suffering of 2020, both individual and communal, is a chance to find and create hope together. Maybe it is an invitation to do things differently. Maybe it means that through suffering new life, new creation, new being can be breathed into this world. Into this community. Into this church. So no, I do not think that God wants us to suffer. It is also obvious that God does not stop all suffering from happening. However, in all of this God is at work. Calling us to something new. Something different. Something we might even call strange. I invite you to walk with me so that we may figure out where God is leading us. What God is doing through the suffering and our place in the mission of God. We are creative. We are resourceful. Even though the world is certain to be different for years to come, God is at work, bidding us come and see. We give thanks for the chance to see it. Maybe, in seeing what is to come, we can find our hope. God's hope does not disappoint.

Peace,
Pastor Ian

Birthdays
Nov 7th - Lyndell Repp
Nov 15th - Rob Smith
Nov 18th - Becky Hart
Nov 19th - Hans McMichael
Nov 21st - KP Wigen &
Mary Ann Wigen
Nov 24th - Steve Larkin
Nov 25th - Brett Kincaid
Nov 27th - Chad Maki

Anniversaries
17th Pete & Brandy Wigen (2003)

Growing into God's Future
Campaign News

As we near the end of our Capital Campaign, by the end of October, we have raised \$145,821, just shy of our goal of \$150,000.

Category	Amount
Goal	\$150,000
Pledged	\$125,000
Received	\$145,821

NOVEMBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Worship 9:00	2	3 Peace Stitchers 1:30	4	5	6	7
8 Worship 9:00	9	10 Peace Stitchers 1:30 Church Council 6:30	11 MOD PIZZA Fundraiser in Moscow	12	13 Lutherhaven Give Thanks Weekend	14
15 Worship 9:00	16	17 Peace Stitchers 1:30	18	19	20	21
22 Worship 9:00	23	24 Peace Stitchers 1:30	25	26 	27	28
29 Worship 9:00	30					