

The Beacon

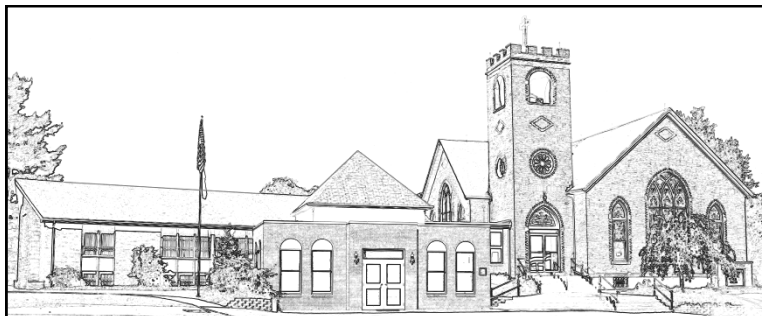
August, 2026

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church
The Cross-Lit Church

10581 Day Hill-Arnheim Rd
Georgetown, OH 45121

Ministers, All Peace Lutheran Members

Pastor Laura Shreffler
Phone: 937-446-2747



Dorcas Circle Invites the Congregation to Learn About Dragonfly Village

Each year in August, Dorcas Circle holds a special event and invites all the members and friends to attend. This year, Dorcas Circle invites the congregation to come at 7:00 p.m. Monday, Aug. 10, to learn about Dragonfly Village from the director of operations, Ashlie Webster. Dragonfly Village is a 99-acre site developing opportunities in wellness, recovery, and community outreach. It is located in Fayetteville and situated on the former Chatfield College campus. It will soon offer shared spaces, childcare, workforce development, and residential support for women and children in recovery.



Ashlie Webster has a history of community outreach with her work at Eastern Schools and the GRIT program (Growing Rural Independence Together). GRIT helps students and adults discover their strengths, explore training

opportunities, and find good-paying jobs right here in our community. She is a wife, a mother, and an entrepreneur, always seeking opportunities to enrich the lives of those in our community. Come and meet Ashlie Webster and learn about this exciting new venture for those struggling in our area and how we might be able to help. Join us at 7:00 p.m. Monday, Aug. 10.



The Cross-Lit Church - Faith, Hope and Love

Remember in Prayer

Tammy Aliff	Cynthia Marks
Marcus Badgely	Jeremy McFarland
George and Dixie Beltz	Joe McFarland
Bobbie Blevins	Yolanda Meeker
Brittany Brown	Estel Newberry
Family of Nancy Camden	Dorothy Orr
Dorothy Carrington	John Pack
Lilly Combs	Brenda Reed
Melissa Dahlheimer	Tom Reifenberger
Chris Davis	Karla Ritchie
Michelle and Craig Dick	Nicki Seip
Aiden Fowler	Pastor Ron Shreffler
George Fowler	Linda Sue Stephan
Missy Freeman	Danny Stephens
Betty Gelter	Paula Taylor
Michell Grey	Bob Verville
Judith Harp	Dana Voight
Pastor Scott Henning	David Wagner
Dorothy Hibbs	Natalie Williams
Judy Huber	Family of Brent Wilson
Donna Johnson	Holly Wilson
Bill Kidwell	
Family of Ronald Land	
Angela Lauders	
Milly Leach	
Roxanne Malone	

Prayers for Homebound and Those in Care Facilities

Sandy Brown - The Ashford of Mt. Washington
 Marlene Kress - Monarch Meadows
 Cameron McCall - at home
 Esther Miller - Monarch Meadows, 937-205-7658
 James Wagel - at home

Serving in the Armed Forces

Kaleb Boyer, Gordon Ellis, Michael Glass, Nicole Hatfield, Houston Henize, Daniel Kelch, Tom Mays, Tyler Thomas, Ryan Thornton, Jake Davis, Elijah Lawrence and Adam Vogel

Senior Member Birthdays

Mary Taylor (20-Aug)
 23 Char Del Dr
 Georgetown, OH 45121

Miriam Wagel (28-Aug)
 6784 State Route 125
 Georgetown, OH 45121



Our Christian Sympathy

- † Our Christian sympathy is extended to Robyn Phillips on the death of her father, Ronald Land. We keep Robyn, Travis, Ethan, and Isabelle in prayer as well as the rest of Ronald's family.
- † Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Brent Wilson, who died July 10. Brent is Mary Taylor's nephew. Please also keep in prayer his wife, Mary's niece Tammy, and their children, Destin and Caelan.

Prayers for Health, Comfort and Strength

The Prayer List is published each month in the Beacon newsletter. Updates to the Beacon list are included in the weekly bulletins.

Please contact Pastor Laura or the church office to add names to the Prayer List or to request continuing prayers. Requests for prayers may also be distributed through Peace Lutheran FYI emails and the One Call Now phone service.

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

—Matthew 28:18-20, NRSVue

Dear Friends,

In a couple of weeks, our children and grandchildren will be back in the classroom. Often, around this time of year, I dedicate this column to the children. Today, I am dedicating it to the teachers. We have both retired teachers and current teachers in our church right now. I want to say thank you for all that you do and all that you put up with as teachers. Most teachers I know mostly love their careers—their job is a calling. My best friend, Rose, loved teaching middle school students. She found them funny and full of insight. I often talk with Agape members about the students in our area and how I worry about them falling through the cracks. When I first came here, Willa Cooper, Kay Bundy, Sue Bohrer, and I held Kids' Club for God each Wednesday afternoon after school. I believe Cindy Verville also took part in that before I came here. We had them bring their schoolwork, and we tutored them in reading and anything else they were struggling with. We had a God-inspired craft or story as well, and a much-anticipated snack. We worried and still worry about those kids. One of our orneriest kids had the best heart and would do anything for anyone. This was a family that has suffered the loss of a mother and a grandfather, both to cancer. They have been relocated many times. But I know there are teachers who really looked after these children and did their best to teach them. Thanks to all of you.

Of course, we have our Sunday School teachers as well who prepare great Sunday School lessons, not knowing if they will have one child or ten. I went through the same thing in the late 1970s and early 1980s when I taught preschool Sunday School. We know the kids are out there, and we prepare for them. We know certain children who will show up each week, but we wish everyone would come every Sunday that they can.

From the Pastor



I'm sure many of you can remember a special Sunday School teacher. My first Sunday School teacher was my Great-Aunt Lelia. Aunt Lelia could hardly wait until I turned 2 and could be in her nursery class (what we would call preschool today). I can't remember much about that class at the First Church of God in Athens, but I know Aunt Lelia was a part of my foundation of faith. She had also brought my father and uncle to church along with her three boys in the days before my grandparents were "saved."

Our Sunday School teachers have such an impact on our children. I especially remember Nikki Tracy, who worked on her lessons and organized them for the Sunday School. We know our current Sunday School students learned a lot from Nikki and learn a lot from Lisa Jewell. Nikki also had a great impact on the faith of her 4-year-old granddaughter, Jaeda. You can tell by the questions Jaeda asks during the children's message. She knows where "Memaw" is and is confident she is safe with Jesus.

The above passage from Scripture is called "The Great Commission." Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he gave those gathered around him this task. They were to first of all make disciples. They were to baptize them. They were to teach them to obey everything Jesus had commanded them. Jesus' promise was to "be with you always, to the end of the age." One of Jesus' most used names is "Teacher," "Rabbi" in Hebrew and "Rabbouni" in Aramaic. If the disciples are not calling him "Lord," they are calling him

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"Teacher." Jesus was the greatest of teachers. In the beginning of his ministry following his baptism and temptation, we find him teaching the people. He gives the great "Sermon on the Mount" in Matthew and "Sermon on the Plain" in Luke. He teaches them to trust him as he feeds them. He teaches them that God's will is that they love one another. He teaches the disciples—a word meaning learners. He has only three years to teach them everything he thinks they need to know. And he had a lot of patience, because they were a hard-headed crew! Every once in a while, he loses his patience and says, "How long am I to put up with you!" We may have said something like that to our children! Jesus astounded brilliant rabbis as an adolescent in Jerusalem. He ascended to his Father, and the disciples made disciples, who made more disciples until here we are today. In the Great Commission, Jesus tells us to make disciples—to teach others about the kingdom of God in both our actions and our words.

Parents and grandparents, you too can follow the Great Commission and make disciples of our children and grandchildren, again by our actions as well as our words. My son-in-law, Christian, was not feeling well the other evening, so he napped while Rebecca and Seraphina unloaded the dishwasher and worked on a puzzle. I knew Rebecca was working on a very large puzzle, so I asked her how one works on a puzzle with a toddler? Rebecca said, "She likes to hand me pieces and then I'll try to find where they go or tell her I'm not ready for that one yet. She tries to place puzzle pieces as well, and she's started talking when she does it. 'This one go here? No. Go here? Nope. Go here? Yayyyyyyy.' (It most definitely doesn't 'go here,' but it's very cute to listen to.) It also includes lots of her getting bored and climbing on me like a jungle gym. Or tonight she brought out like 20 toys from her room and brushed my hair. It's chaos, but we have a good time." Yes, Seraphina did have to put all 20 toys back in her room before and bedtime stories could be read or bedtime songs sung. Rebecca is a good teacher as she helps Seraphina with the puzzle or lets her brush her hair. She shows her how to practice patience. She is not afraid to let her be bored. And she takes her off to church with her each Sunday, where after the service, the aptly

named music director, Melody, allows Seraphina to play the piano as long as she sits on her mother's lap and doesn't bang the keys. She is making her a disciple, and I know many of you who have made your children disciples as well.

For all of you, whether you be professional teachers or Sunday School teachers or parents who are teaching your children about God and Jesus and our world—thank you, thank you, thank you. You would not believe the impact you have on our children here at church.

In Christ,
Pastor Laura

Backpack Blessings

We will have our annual Backpack Blessings during each service on Sunday, Aug. 9. Anyone from preschool age up to seniors in high school are welcome to bring their backpacks up before the sermon for a special blessing. This is a moment in the worship service when the congregation encourages kids with the special promises of God as they prepare for a new school year.

We have two special Scripture verses this year: "Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ," Ephesians 4:32; and "Live by the Spirit!" Galatians 5:25. We will have a special litany and blessing and a special children's message. Each student will receive a backpack tag with the "Live by the Spirit!" verse on it, and a Blessing Sheet of affirmations. Parents are encouraged to use these cards and sheets throughout the year by placing an affirmation in the child's backpack or lunchbox. This is a special Sunday the kids look forward to!



Blessing
of the Backpacks



Semiquincentennial Thanks

Thank you to everyone who came to celebrate our country and our Lord on July 5! Thanks to our musicians: Joy Creighton, Ron Tracy, Tara Woods, Cheryl Phillips, Bonnie McFarland, Maya Taylor, Pastor Laura, Robert Thomas, Tony Henson, and Trent McFarland. Thank you to Joy Creighton for leading the choir anthem, and for Ron Tracy, Pastor Ron, and Dena Morris for joining the rest of us for the anthem.

Thanks to the Sunday School children and adults for the patriotic chalk pictures and to Tara Woods for setting up the display of the pictures along with the posters highlighting God's role in this country's beginnings. Thanks to Debi Shultz, who came up with the chalk picture idea.

Thanks to our Sunday School children for their two songs.

Thanks to Terry Holland for the red, white, and blue altar and chancel flowers.

We have received many good comments about the day.



Summer Lunches

We will continue to pack summer lunches and distribute them during August. We will pack lunches at 6:30 p.m. Thursdays, July 30, Aug. 6, and Aug. 13, in Frey Hall. We will meet at the church to distribute the lunches at 11:30 a.m. Fridays, July 31, Aug. 7, and Aug. 14. The Eastern Brown County Schools resume Wednesday, Aug. 20, so Aug. 14 will be our last day to deliver lunches.

Thank you to Amy and Clyde Beyer, Richard and Linda Sue Stephan, Connie Perry, Donna Mahanes, Sue Bohrer, Pastor Laura, and anyone else we may have missed who delivered the lunches. Thanks to all the people who came out on Thursday evenings to pack the food. Special thanks to Susan Taylor and Elizabeth Waits for their many trips to purchase the food!

Youth & Family Ministry Game Night

It's ba-ack! The Youth & Family Ministry Game Night will return at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, in Frey Hall. Bring a snack to share and card games or board games. The Wii will be up and running, and we usually have enough people for at least a foursome at euchre. Soft drinks will be furnished. Not into games? Come just for conversation and getting to know the people of Peace and any guests we may have. We look forward to seeing you!



Dorcas Circle Projects

Dorcas Circle will have community projects on the second and fourth Sundays of August. Dorcas Circle will receive nonperishable food items for the Little Cross-Lit Pantry on Sunday, Aug. 9. Just put your food items with the tubs of food in the Access Entrance. On Sunday, Aug. 23, Dorcas Circle will collect items for the Adams County Homeless Shelter and nonperishable food items for the Agape Interfaith Pantry at Sardinia Hope Church. You can find lists of needs for the shelter and the pantry in their respective drawers in the large cupboard in the Access Entrance. Place your items in those drawers.

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

On Sunday, July 12, we welcomed Peyton Bree Stanford and Saylor Kaye Cooper into our Peace family by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Bree, 11, and Saylor, 9, are cousins.

Bree is the daughter of Leigh Ann Carroll and Chris Stanford. Bree's sponsors were her brothers, Latrell and Kenyon Jones.

Saylor's parents are Kelli and Zane Cooper. Her sponsors were her aunt Leigh Ann Carroll, and her brother, Ryder Gagen.

The girls are the granddaughters of Marilee and John Carroll and the great-granddaughters of Mary Alice Hertlein. Bree and Saylor also came to the Lord's Table for First Communion on July 12. Welcome, Bree and Saylor!



Peace Lutheran Communications	
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Pastor Laura Shreffler	937-564-0082 (cell), 937-446-9308 (home) trinitytwo13@gmail.com
Zach Taylor, President	937-515-7468

Agape Quarterly Meeting

Agape will hold its quarterly meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 27, at Sardinia Church of Christ. Pastor Laura is the chair of Agape and Linda Sue Stephan serves as secretary. Others from Peace attending Agape are Amy Beyer, Donna Mahanes, and Natalie Vogel.

We will hear about how the Summer Lunch Program went from Pam Hardyman and will begin planning for the November Community Thanksgiving Worship Service and the Holiday Boxes. Our main topic of conversation for new business will be the new Board of Trustees, and the name change to Sardinia Agape Council.

If others are interested and want to know more, they are welcome to attend the meeting.



Opportunities to Share

- ✦ Agape Emergency Fund – donations for emergencies in our community
- ✦ Agape Food Pantry – non-perishable food items
- ✦ Adams/Brown County Homeless Shelter – common household paper products and sanitary items for adults and children
- ✦ Cross-Lit Pantry – non-perishable food items for our outdoor pantry near the access entrance
- ✦ Home of Peace Orphanage in Bariadi Tanzania – donations for the orphanage and children - aluminum cans for recycling

Offering Plate

Members and guests: You can still place your offering in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary near the entrance. While we will at some point go back to passing the plates during the offering song/organ offertory, Council decided it might be better to wait until the current bacterial illness has passed. Although it is assumed that it is food-borne, no one knows for sure yet whether it also is contagious through touch.

Council will take another look at this next month. Thank you for your patience.

Please send news items, corrections and address changes to the church office or peacelutheran@ymail.com



The Beacon is the official publication of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Arnheim, Ohio. It is sponsored by the Church and the LYO to furnish information and inspiration to our congregation and friends.

Council Minutes — June 14, 2026

Present: Sue Bohrer, George Fowler, Terry Holland, Cheryl Phillips, Marion Ralston, Pastor Laura Shreffler, Zach Taylor, Dan Wagel, Joan Yockey

Meeting called to order by Zach Taylor.

Mission statement read.

Devotions presented by Marion Ralston.

Secretary's report reviewed. Motion to approve made by Terry Holland, seconded by Marion Ralston. All in favor Aye. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report reviewed. Motion to approve by Joan Yockey, seconded by Marion Ralston. All in favor, Aye. Motion carried.

Pastor Laura presented her monthly report both written and verbally.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Church Property—George Fowler gave Property report. Shafer heating and cooling was here to check HVAC. Unit over the kitchen is leaking condensate in the ceiling of the kitchen. Suggested adding a monitor that would alarm when drain pan is full, checking it frequently. Dan showed a device that could be placed that would alarm, that had been given to him by the insurance company, that would be less than \$20.

Kitchen ceiling is going to need repaired where it leaked. George may be able to do but will have to see how involved it is.

George is working on replacing signs that were missing or needed replaced directing people to the church. There was question about the one outside the gate to Lake Waynoka. The property it was on was Donna Jo Mahane's and she had posted a sign asking that no signs be put up on the property. Donna was contacted and gave approval for sign to be replaced.

Drain coming from the boiler has not yet been fixed-George made note of this.

Cemetery—Zach gave cemetery report in Jerry's absence. Paving is complete except for some backfilling along the edges. Paving company is waiting for the ground to settle and will be back for that.

Evangelism—Evangelism report given by Joan Yockey. Summer Lunch program is up and running. They have been preparing 93 lunches a week. Youngest child they are serving is 7 months.

Set Up for Backpack/Shoe event at Sardinia Church of Christ will be 7/24/26. Taylors are in the process of purchasing shoes.

We will not be purchasing more directories as some people are now accustomed to the app and prefer using it over the hard copy so they will be turning in their copies.

Christian Education—report given by Marion in Dorothy's absence. The Wilson's Children's Home has only 6-8 kids at this time so they will not be doing Christmas in July for them this year. Still looking for a teacher for the 3 years to 3rd grad class for Sunday School.

Next meeting will be 8/18/26.

Worship and Music—report given by Pastor Laura and Cheryl. The committee is planning for a Semiquincentennial Service/Celebration on 7/5/26. Trying to get a choir together for special music.

George made a motion to accept reports as presented. Seconded by Marion. All Aye- motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Lenten offering was discussed as it was originally decided to divide between Agape Food Pantry and Wilson's Children's Home. Wilson's Children's Home is not fully operational. Sue made a motion to donate the entire offering to the Agape Food Pantry. Seconded by Dan. All Aye-motion carried.

Dan presented information on a new copier that would better meet our needs and be less expenditure at \$3,995.00 vs \$7,000 with features we have now that we are not using. (Legal size copies, folding, stapling) Dan assured council those features are not necessary. Joan made a motion to purchase Sharp Copier Model BP-70M36 from Millennium Business Systems using money from the General Fund. Seconded by Marion. All Aye, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Marion made everyone aware that Ronald Yockey is working in the pine grove near the parsonage cleaning up branches and trimming. Ronald will also be spraying weeds coming up in various places on the property in crack in sidewalks and pavement.

George made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Sue. All in favor Aye. Motion carried.

Meeting closed with everyone praying the Lord's Prayer together.

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Tenth Sunday After Pentecost 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:30 a.m. Catechism Class 10:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion	3	4	5 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice	6 6:30 p.m. Pack Summer Lunches	7 11:30 a.m. Distribute Summer Lunches 6:30 p.m. Youth and Family Game Night	8
9 Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost Backpack Blessing Sunday 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum 10:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion 5:30 p.m. Executive Committee Meets 6:00 p.m. Church Council Meets	10 7:00 p.m. Dorcas Circle Meeting; Open to Congregation Topic: The Dragonfly Village	11	12 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice	13 6:30 p.m. Final Time Packing Summer Lunches	14 11:30 a.m. Final Distribution of Summer Lunches	15
16 Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum 10:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion	17 7:00 p.m. Worship and Music Committee Meets	18 7:00 p.m. Sunday School Board Meets	19 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice	20	21	22
23 Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost 8:20 a.m. Healing Service 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:30 a.m. Catechism Class 10:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion	24 7:00 p.m. Evangelism Committee Meets	25	26 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice	27 Agape Quarterly Meeting at Sardinia Church of Christ	28	29
30 Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:30 a.m. Catechism Class 10:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion	31					

The Beacon

Peace Lutheran Church, Arnheim, Ohio

August, 2026

We welcome you to join us for worship, fellowship and service!

Sunday Schedule

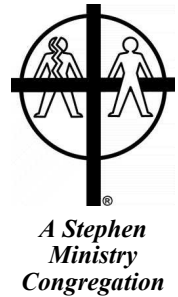
- 8:30 a.m. Praise Worship Service
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum
- 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

Holy Communion is celebrated every week
At both the 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services.

Pastor Laura Shreffler

Church Phone: (937) 446-2747

Church Email: peacelutheran@ymail.com



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