

The Beacon

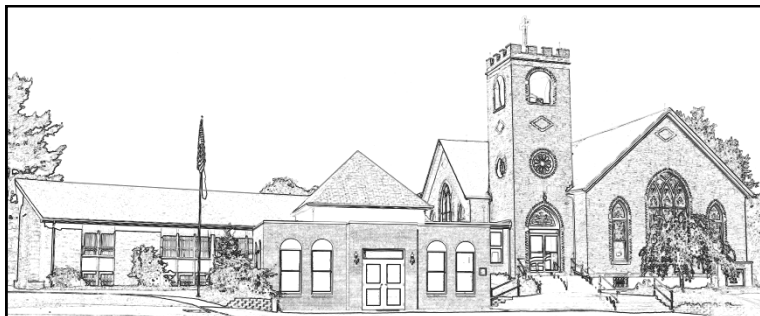
September 2025

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



Brown County Fair Parade

Join us in riding or walking in the Brown County Fair Parade! The Brown County Fair will take place from Monday, Sept. 22, through Saturday, Sept. 27. The parade is at approximately 6:00 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 22. For the parade, meet at the Georgetown Schools by 5:30 p.m. Bring rain gear! We may still be looking for someone to drive the truck and trailer. See Lisa or Jerry Jewell. Luther the Dog will join us. You can walk or ride during the parade.

We are looking for donations of candy to give out as we walk/ride. Look for containers for the candy soon!

A reminder: once we get into the fairgrounds, we will disembark and get supper. After about an hour, we will meet up with the truck and trailer, which will take us back to where our cars are parked.

God's Work—Our Hands

God's Work—Our Hands Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, Sept. 7. Our focus again will be on Bariadi, the orphanage in Tanzania where we have sponsored students for many years. Our current students are Meshack and Daniel.

We will begin with a carry-in breakfast at 8:30 a.m. We will not have Sunday School or Adult Forum. Just bring a dish to share and join us in fellowship!

Pastor Wayne DeWet of One Plus God Ministries is unable to be with us this year as he will be in Turkey. We will have another speaker, a colleague of Pastor DeWet, from the One Plus God ministry during the 10:00 a.m. joint worship service. Pastor DeWet's daughter has been in Tanzania this summer, and we will have her video of Bariadi and Tanzania. Baskets will be out both in Frey Hall and in the sanctuary for a love offering for Bariadi.



The Cross-Lit Church - Faith, Hope and Love

Please Remember in Prayer

Family of Roland Barr
George Beltz
Family of Steve Benning
Family of Renee Bergman
Bobbie Blevins
Family of Sonny Bradford
Brittany Brown
Jacob Brown
Sandy Brown
Vicky and Charlie
Mike Clement
Kendal Conley
Melissa Dahlheimer
Shannon Daulton
Michelle and Craig Dick
Eric Erickson
Family of Branden Floss
Karen Gilliam
Michell Grey
Judith Harp
Pastor Scott Henning
Dorothy Hibbs
Judy Huber
Josh Humble
Lydia Humble
Family of Gary Jimison
Family of Teresa Johnson
Wilfred Kelch
Roger Keyes

Lucas Kuronen
Ronald Land
Angela Lauders
James and Milly Leach
Ruth Litzinger
Cynthia Marks
Yolanda Meeker
Esther Miller
Miranda and Babies
Estel Newberry
Dorothy Orr
Clarence Perry
Brenda Reed
Tom Reifenberger
Karla Ritchie
Mattie Robinette
Amanda Roush & Josh Endsley
Nicki Seip
Pastor Ron Shreffler
Carl Stuck
Bill and Paula Taylor
Nikki Tracy
Michelle Uhl
Bob and Cindy Verville
Roger Vogel
Wallace family
Ava Warmoth
Amy White
Clifford Williams
Brent Wilson
Holly Wilson

Senior Member Birthdays

Ruth Litzinger (20-Sep)
304 Blair Ave
Georgetown, OH 45121

Marlene Kress (22-Sep)
11443 Purdy Rd
Sardinia, OH 45171

Betty Gelter (27-Sep)
1103 State Route 125
Hamersville, OH 45130

Thank You

Pastor Ron would like to thank the congregation for its prayers, concerns, and cards when he had the Watchman device implanted. The Watchman will take out clots before they reach the heart so that he will no longer have to take blood thinners after a couple months. His cardiologist/surgeon was very pleased with how the surgery went. Pastor Ron says he appreciates the outreach.

Thank You

Dorcas Circle would like to thank Debi Shultz and her worthy assistant, husband Steve, for talking about the Brown County Board of Mental Health and Addictions at the Dorcas Circle Open Meeting. Debi's talk was very informative, and we all learned new things about mental health and addiction in Brown County. Thanks again, Debi, for take time out to tell us how we can help.

Prayers for Homebound and Those in Care Facilities

John Mahanes (Magnolia Springs, Loveland)
Cameron McCall (at home)
Esther Miller (Monarch Meadows, 937-205-7658)
James Wagel (at home)

Serving in the Armed Forces

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

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.

The king (David) was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept; and as he went, he said, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son."

2 Samuel 18:33 NRSV

Dear Friends,

One of the devotionals I follow has Scripture from 2 Samuel each day, and over several days recounted the tragic story of Absalom. It's tragic because it began when David decided to have his way with Bathsheba and kill her husband to get him out of the way. God, through Nathan, said he accepted David's plea for forgiveness, which was authentic and heartfelt, but that there would be a rending of his family as a result.

His baby son with Bathsheba dies. His oldest and favorite son, Amnon, lusts after and rapes his half-sister, Tamar, and she lives in shame for the rest of her life. David is angry, but he does nothing about his beloved son. Absalom, on the other hand, the full brother of Tamar, comforts her. He does nothing at the time, but keeps his fury and hatred to himself, until a couple years later, when he invites all the king's sons to a dinner where he has Amnon killed.

I will skip over to Absalom trying to usurp the throne from his father, and the followers of David and Absalom at war. David asks his generals to "deal gently with the young man Absalom." Absalom has long, beautiful hair, and as he's riding through the forest, his hair is caught on the branches of an oak tree, and he is hanging



From the Pastor



between "heaven and earth." Someone tells David's general Joab (a really all-around not nice guy who finally gets his comeuppance at the start of 1 Kings), and Joab throws three spears through Absalom's heart.

David knows he is at fault, but when he finds out about his child, his much-loved son, he weeps and mourns. The above verse to me is one of the most heartbreaking in the Bible. It doesn't matter what Absalom has done; he has still lost his son. This is such a famous quote that William Faulkner wrote a novel, "Absalom, My Son." He knows God walks with him, but he is still in the very depths of his grief. This story brings tears to my eyes every time. I know so many people, including my parents, who also would have wept, "Would I had died instead of you, O my son, or my daughter."

We have many members and friends right now who are experiencing that heart-wrenching grief, no matter if it is a son, a husband, a parent, or a dear friend. When I read this Scripture, I thought of each of them. Or maybe they grieve something else, a hurt, health, a struggle to forgive. In the Gospels, Jesus cannot bear to see a mother grieving as her dead son is carried on a bier to the cemetery, nor can he bear the tears of Mary and Martha and weeps himself at Lazarus' tomb. Peter is moved by how much Dorcas (Tabitha) was loved by the women for whom she sewed garments. He takes Dorcas by the hand and raises her up. We have many stories in both Old and New Testament about grief and resurrection.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

The same week, I read in Luke 19 Jesus' words as he overlooks Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. This is where he weeps over Jerusalem, a different kind of grief. "If you, even you, had only recognized this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes." I wonder if he weeps over the world in the same way today. When I read this, President Trump was meeting with Vladimir Putin and later with President Zelenskyy. Everyone has a different idea of what will make peace both in the Ukraine-Russian war and Israel and Gaza. But for many of them, the things that really make for peace are hidden from their eyes. I feel Jesus weeping and crying out, "O my children, my children; O, my children!" And he actually did die so we would not have to. He died so that we might recognize the things that make for peace.

Please continue to support, pray for, and love those people in our community who are broken in their loss. They will not get over their grief, nor should they, but pray that slowly those broken places might heal. Then, for Jesus' sake, work toward all those things that make for peace -- not a cheap peace or a cheap grace, but a peace that is lasting and healing.

In Christ,
Pastor Laura

Dorcas Circle to Meet

Dorcas Circle will meet at 7:00 p.m. Monday, Sept. 8, in Frey Hall. Following a business meeting, Pastor Laura will lead Bible study from Max Lucado's *Life Lessons from Acts*. We will study Lesson 5, "Looking to Jesus," found on pages 37-44.

The lesson will cover Acts 7:51-60. Stephen is arrested and speaks before the Sanhedrin. They do not like what he has to say. How do we stay strong in Jesus when we are persecuted or facing death? Stephen shows us how. We also get our first introduction to Saul/Paul.

Come for great fellowship and good study. The more we know of the Bible, the more we can answer the questions of others!



Our Christian Sympathy

- † Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Roland W. Barr, who died at Hospice of Hope at Adams County Regional Medical Center on Thursday, July 24, following an extended battle with cancer. Pastor Laura Shreffler officiated at Roland's funeral, which was held here at Peace on Tuesday, July 29. He was buried at Peace Lutheran Cemetery. We especially remember Roland's wife, Fonda, during this time. Please also keep in prayer son, James Barr; and two daughters, Patty Begley and husband Dave; and Brandi Barr, as well as many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Memorial donations may be made to Peace Lutheran Church or Hospice of Hope, 215 Hughes Boulevard, Mt. Orab, OH 45154.
- † Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Teresa Johnson, who died Tuesday, August 19, after a battle with cancer. We have had Teresa on our prayer list for a long time. The Waits family was very close to Teresa and her family. Please keep her husband, Chad, and her daughter, Emma, in prayer as well as other family members.
- † Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Gary Jimison, who died on Tuesday, August 19 at the Clermont Mercy Hospital. Gary was the grandfather of Hallie Jimison.



Dorcas Circle Projects

Dorcas Circle will have two projects this month. The Circle will receive non-perishable food items for our Little Cross-Lit Food Pantry on Sunday, Sept. 14. Please put your food items by the plastic bins of food under the coat rack in the Access entrance.

On Sunday, Sept. 28, the Circle will receive donations to the Adams County Homeless Shelter and the Agape Interfaith Pantry. Place items for these groups in the marked drawers in the large wooden cabinet in the access entrance. The drawers have a list of needs for each of these groups. Thanks to everyone who has donated!

Agape Summer Projects

Peace just finished a busy and successful summer with two Agape service programs -- the Summer Lunch Program and the Back-to-School Giveaway.

The five Agape churches delivered more than 6,000 meals to kids and seniors between the end of May and the beginning of August. Peace packed and delivered 1,100 of those meals on Thursdays and Fridays. Thanks to everyone who helped shop, pack, and deliver! Thanks, as well, to those who used their Thrivent Choice Cards to help purchase supplies.

We had our Back-to-School Giveaway July 19 and July 23 at the Sardinia Church of Christ. All the Agape churches contributed, with Peace and the Church of Christ helping during the Giveaway. Children could pick out backpacks, which they filled with school supplies and hygiene items. They also picked out new shoes. We passed out about 140 pairs of shoes and helped 247 students get ready for school. It's more than worth it to see the smiles when the kids have found the perfect shoes or backpack and parents say thanks for the help!

Thank you to Susan Taylor, Elizabeth Waits, and Bonnie McFarland for doing the shoe shopping. Thanks to our Evangelism Team for volunteering at the giveaway. We have already started warehousing shoes for next year!



Back-to-School Volunteers and tables full of school supplies



Summer Lunch Delivery Crew



Summer Lunch Packing Crew

Youth Sunday and Backpack Blessing

What a wonderful worship service we had on August 10! Many people complimented our prelude pianists—Maya Taylor, Zane Taylor and Lydia Percy—and our lectors—Isabelle Phillips, Hunter Bradford and Harper Bradford. Thanks to all the singers—Maya and Zane Taylor, Hunter and Harper Bradford, Isabelle Phillips, and Jaeda, the keeper of the mic!

We missed our other LYO/Sunday School youths, but we are so proud of the fine job the ones who took part did! Thanks especially to Olivia Waits and Grace Humble, who spoke about their faith journeys. Their witness was good for both youngsters and teens to hear.

Pastor Laura led the annual Backpack Blessings for preschoolers through high schoolers. The students participated in a special children's sermon, and each student will receive luggage tags for their backpacks. Special affirmations that their parents and grandparents can put in their backpacks and lunch boxes during the school year were also distributed.

While it's still up, take a close look at the JOY banner in the sanctuary that was made by our Sunday School kids.

Thank you to Joy Creighton and Tara Woods, who put this together, and our Sunday School teachers, Nikki Tracy and Lisa Jewell. Thanks to Nikki for her words about Sunday School over the years. You can tell that all of them love our kids!



Maya



Zane



Lydia



Isabelle



Hunter



Harper



Grace



Olivia



Peace Lutheran Communications	
Peace Lutheran Church 10581 Day Hill-Arnheim Rd Georgetown, OH 45121	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 937-446-2747 (with answering machine) • website: peacelutherantown.com • email: peacelutheran@ymail.com • www.facebook.com/peacelutheran.churcharnheim • <i>One Call Now</i> notifications available • <i>Peace Lutheran FYI</i> weekly emails available • <i>Beacon</i> newsletter mailed to members and friends
Pastor Laura Shreffler	937-564-0082 (cell), 937-446-9308 (home) trinitytwo13@gmail.com
Zach Taylor, President	937-515-7468

Update on Kendal Conley

We have been keeping Kendal Conley in prayer for more than a year when she had her second heart transplant. She had a heart transplant as a child. Kendal's heart shows no signs of rejection, but her kidneys are failing. She has started dialysis and gone to the top of the list for a kidney transplant. Please pray that the right donor comes along soon and all goes well.

Vacation

Pastor Laura and Pastor Ron will be on vacation on Tuesday, Sept. 23, through Monday, Sept. 29. During part of that time they will be in West Virginia to see their daughter and son-in-law's new house in Ona (near Huntington) and to celebrate their granddaughter's second birthday.

Pastor Jennell Rue, husband Mike, and kids will be back to worship with you and lead worship on Sunday, Sept. 28. Pastor Jen said they would be "honored" to spend that day with you!



Honoring Our Seniors

We will honor our OWLS -- Older, Wiser Lutherans -- with our annual Senior Member Sunday on Oct. 5. We will once again have joint worship at 10:00 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum will meet at 9:00 a.m.

We honor all of our OWLS who are 80 and older. We have three members who turned 80 this year: George "Nick" Beltz, Richard Stephen, and Mary Taylor.

Once more, we will have a card shower for all of our seniors who are 80 and older. A list of names will be made available. Cards need to be in by Sunday, Sept. 28. Following worship, we will have a carry-in dinner. Chicken and drinks will be provided. Come and celebrate our seniors!

Chair Pilates

Cat Bundy will lead us in Chair Pilates at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, in Frey Hall. These gentle exercises strengthen the core and help with balance. This is open to men and women of all ages. Please wear loose-fitting clothing and comfortable shoes. Bring a light weight. Thanks to Cat for taking time out of her busy schedule each month to do this!

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 — July 13, 2025

Present: Steve Bundy, Cheryl Phillips, Connie Perry, Linda Sue Stephan, Marion Ralston, Natalie Vogel, Joan Yockey, Pastor Laura Shreffler, Zac Taylor, Dan Wagel, Dorothy Carrington

President Zac Taylor called the meeting to order and read the mission statement.

Linda Sue Stephan led devotions.

The Secretary's report was reviewed. Cheryl Phillips made a motion to accept the report, and Linda Sue Stephan seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. Cheryl Phillips made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and Linda Sue Stephan seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Pastor Laura Shreffler read the pastor's report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Church Property—Working on gathering bids for the fascia/gutter fix, have only received one response so far.

Cemetery—Nothing to report.

Finance & Investment—Nothing to report.

Evangelism—We now have church business cards, feel free to take some to hand out.

Summer lunches are going well.

Back to school giveaway is next week, they could use some help setting up.

More to come on the directory project.

Next meeting is on July 28.

Stewardship—Nothing to report.

Scholarship—Nothing to report.

Christian Education—Christmas in July collection currently happening. God's Work—Our Hands plans underway.

Worship & Music—August 10 – youth service and backpack blessing.

Senior service plans to begin soon.

Youth & Family—July 20 – swim party

August 15 – game night

October 25 – vendor event at Lake Waynoka

Mission Fund—Nothing to report.

Cheryl Phillips made a motion to accept the Committee Reports and Marion Ralston seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Mice problem – 6 have been caught, will continue with the traps for now

Church signs – do we repair or replace? There were originally 13, do we still need all of them? These are

questions currently being considered. Requested ideas on who makes signs locally to be brought to the August meeting.

Missing waterproofing materials and bucket – advised to check the closet by the sump pump.

Benches and tables in the gazebo need to be resealed.

The elevator fix reimbursement – Dan wrote a letter to the electrician, no response yet.

Light bulb in the elevator has been replaced.

Tree removal – there has been a breakdown in communication. Willa offered to call A1 Tree Care to get things moving.

Insurance – premium went up approximately 15%, it has been paid. We still need to look around for other potential options in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

Ongoing water issue – more water has been found in the basement; it has been cleaned up. The tiles are beginning to pop up. Water was also found in the library room by the choir room. Is it a gutter issue? Is something backed up? Does the concrete need to be resealed? More to come...

Propane – We will not continue with AmeriGas, they've let it run out multiple times. Lykins and Ferrellgas are too high. The remaining options are Arricks and Suburban. Steve Bundy made a motion to go with Suburban and Cheryl Phillips seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

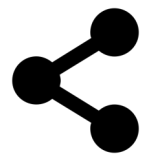
Phone static – issue is with the line, not the phone (this has been tested). Frontier should be coming out. We do need to keep a phone line because of the elevator.

Cheryl Phillips made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Steve Bundy seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Natalie Vogel.

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <u>LABOR DAY</u> Office Closed	2	3 6:30 p.m. Portico Webinar for Sponsoring Organizations 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice	4	5	6
7 <u>GOD'S WORK—OUR HANDS SUNDAY</u> 8:30 a.m. Carry-in Breakfast 10:00 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion One Service with Special Bariadi Speaker	8 7:00 p.m. Dorcas Circle Meets	9	10 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice	11 3:30 p.m. Pastor at Candidacy Committee Meeting - Synod Office	12	13 1:00 p.m. Chair Pilates
14 <u>HOLY CROSS SUNDAY</u> 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	15 7:00 p.m. Worship and Music Committee Meets	16	17 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice	18	19	20
21 <u>FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</u> 8:20 a.m. Healing Service 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	22 5:30 p.m. Fair Parade	23	24 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice	25	26	27
Brown County Fair						
Pastors on Vacation						
28 <u>SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</u> 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 Rev. Jennell Rue Leads Worship Services	29	30 9:00 a.m. Pastor Back in Office				
Pastors on Vacation						

Sep 27
 10:00 a.m. Advanced Council
 President & Vice President
 Boot Camp

The Beacon

Peace Lutheran Church, Arnheim, Ohio

September 2025

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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