

The Beacon

May 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



Memorial Day Service

We will hold our annual Memorial Day Service on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26. The service is tentatively scheduled for 9:30 a.m. The Russellville American Legion will lead the service at Peace Lutheran Arnheim Cemetery and Pastor Laura will speak.

If you cannot easily climb the hill, you are welcome to drive up to the top driveway. Come and remember those who died for our freedoms.



LYO Meeting

There will be an LYO meeting on Sunday, May 18, at noon in the church basement youth room. Lunch will be provided. Come ready with ideas for some service work and what you'd like to see the LYO do next! There will also be a craft and activity.

Dorcas Circle

Dorcas Circle will meet at 7:00 p.m. Monday, May 12, in Frey Hall. Following a business meeting, Pastor Laura will lead Lesson Two of Max Lucado's Bible study, Life Lessons in Acts. Lesson Two is "We Are Witnesses," and can be found on pp. 11 through 18. Who brought you to faith in Jesus Christ through their witness? How did Peter and John's healing of the lame man lead to witnessing to the power of Christ? All women are welcome to join us for good fellowship and learning.



Confirmation Sunday

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, June 8. Not only will we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, but we will celebrate the Affirmation of Baptism (confirmation) of two of our young people, Addison Bundy and Isabelle Phillips.

We will have one service at 10:00 a.m., with Sunday School, Adult Forum, and Catechism at 9:00 a.m. Please be present to hear Addy and Isabelle affirm the vows their parents and sponsors made for them at baptism.

The Cross-Lit Church - Faith, Hope and Love

Please Remember in Prayer

Anne Anderson
 Roland and Fonda Barr
 George Beltz
 Steve Benning and family
 Renee Bergman
 Bobbie Blevins
 Sonny Bradford
 Brittany Brown
 Jimmy Brown
 Sandy Brown
 Vicky and Charlie
 Family of Bryan Carrington
 Kevin Christman
 Kendal Conley
 Family of Phil Cooper
 Eric Erickson
 Karen Gilliam
 Michell Grey
 Judith Harp
 Family of Freda Hendrixson
 Pastor Scott Henning
 Dorothy Hibbs
 Camden Howser
 Family of Larry and Sherri
 Howser
 Lydia Humble
 Teresa Johnson
 Wilfred and Norma Kelch

Family of Wilma Kidd
 Lucas Kuronen
 Ronald Land
 Angela Lauders
 James and Milly Leach
 Ruth Litzinger
 Cynthia Marks
 Yolanda Meeker
 Esther Miller
 Family of Tony Moubray
 Estel Newberry
 Dorothy Orr
 Clarence Perry
 Kathleen Ridenour-Dean
 Karla Ritchie
 Mattie Robinette
 Amanda Roush & Josh Endsley
 Carter Shideler
 Richard Stephan
 Family of Don Stevenson
 Ken Stiers
 Carl Stuck
 Bill and Paula Taylor
 Michelle Uhl
 James Wagel
 Ava Warmoth
 Dave Willis
 Brent Wilson
 Holly Wilson

Senior Member Birthdays

Hallie Benjamine (11-May)
 10501 Day Hill-Arnheim Rd
 Georgetown, OH 45121

Bette Ellis (14-May)
 916 Louise Dr
 Xenia, OH 45385



Chair Pilates

The next session of Chair Pilates will be at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, May 10. Cat Bundy will lead us in these gentle exercises that aid balance and strengthen the body's core. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a light weight. We had a good group in April -- let's keep it up!

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.

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

Our Christian Sympathy

Our Christian sympathy is extended to Chuck and Willa Cooper at the death of Chuck's brother, Melvin Philip "Phil" Cooper, who died Friday, April 4, at Jewish Hospital after an extended illness. Funeral services were held Thursday, April 10, at Meeker Funeral Home in Russellville. Please keep in prayer Phil's sons and daughters-in-law, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Memorial gifts may be made to Hospice of Hope Ohio Valley, 215 Hughes Blvd., Mt. Orab, OH 45154.

Prayers for Homebound and Those in Care Facilities

Cameron McCall (at home)
 Esther Miller (Monarch Meadows, 937-205-7658)



"Well done, good and trustworthy (faithful) servant; enter into the joy of your master."

Mathew 25:23a and c, NRSV

Dear Friends,

A post on Facebook recently reminded me of an event with Pope Francis and a child that touched me deeply. While Pope Francis was speaking publicly, a small girl with Down syndrome—maybe about 5 or 6 years old—got away from her parents and ran up to where the pope was speaking. Security people headed toward the child to take her away, but Pope Francis held up his hand—"let her stay,"—and she sat in a chair near him and held his hand for the rest of his speech. At a time when others were making fun of people with disabilities, this was refreshing and warm and brought tears to my eyes. It also reminded me of the disciples scolding the parents who brought their little ones to see Jesus. Why, he was far too busy for that! But Jesus rebukes them: "Suffer the little children to come to me and forbid them not, for from such is



the kingdom of God." And he held them in his arms and blessed them.

So as I write this, Pope Francis I has died at the age of 88. He was demonstrably weak during the Holy Week services and Easter. He was able to get a blessing out to his people. It seems as though he just wanted to get through the Resurrection of Our Lord, and then he was ready to enter into the joy of his master. I do not agree with everything that the Roman Catholic Church does or preaches. I did not agree with everything that Pope Francis did. For example, it took him a long time to realize his bishops in Chile were lying to him about the abuse going on in the church there by a venerable bishop.

From the Pastor



It took a while for him to back away from the authoritarian figure he was in Buenos Aires in his early days of the priesthood. But his ideas and attitudes changed. He strived to be like Jesus. Matthew 25:31-46 was how he lived his life.

"For I was hungry, and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
I was naked and you took care of me,
I was in prison and you visited me."

Even on this past Maundy or Holy Thursday, even in his weakened condition, Pope Francis made his usual visit to the prison where every other year he washed feet. He did not have the strength this year to wash the feet, but he had the strength to visit the prisoners and reach out. He was a good man who tried to be like Jesus in an era where Christian nationalists in this country complain about Jesus' words being "too woke." "And Jesus wept."

In the next few weeks, a conclave of cardinals will gather in Vatican City to begin elections for a new pope. The people will wait outside waiting for the blast of white smoke. Already I have read comments that make me sorrowful, like, "I hope we get another white European pope this time." "I hope this pope isn't woke (translation: doesn't care for the marginalized)." "I hope we don't get another pope from the Western Hemisphere." "I hope we don't have a black (Asian, Hispanic, pick a color or nationality) pope." This is from conservative Catholics who might prefer to return to Vatican I. If you trust the process of the conclave, isn't the pope in the end the choice of God? I do have friends who are worried about who the next pope

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will be but more in the way that they don't want to see the Church going backward.



We will vote at Synod Assembly for bishop. I would be very surprised if Bishop Dillahunt is not voted in one more time. We vote by ecclesiastical ballot just as the cardinals do, and we trust the process. The Churchwide Assembly will be held in August in Phoenix. Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has decided not to run again. It has been a difficult six years since she was re-elected, starting with the pandemic. She wants to spend precious time with her husband, Conrad, her daughters, Susannah and Rebecca, and their families. She is a brilliant woman who graduated from Harvard Divinity School, and she is a native Ohioan. She just spent Palm Sunday with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land, especially spending time with Lutherans in Palestine. She will be missed. It is always comforting to hear her say at the end of each video she sends: "Be well, dear Church." Now we are wondering what bishop the ecclesiastical ballot will bring us. Conservative? Liberal? Somewhere in between? I am hoping for a bishop who lives by Jesus' teachings, who has love in his or her heart for all.

So we remain in prayer for the Catholic Church as it mourns its faithful pope. We remain in prayer for the bishop's election in June at Southern Ohio Synod Assembly, and we remain in prayer for the bishop's election in August at the Churchwide Assembly. We trust the process.

In Christ,
Pastor Laura

Thank You

Our sincere thanks to each of you who offered your support, prayers and concern during the time of Chuck's brother's illness and at the time of his passing. Thank you for the food, cards, phone calls and flowers. We are grateful to each of you. May God richly bless you and your loved ones.

Chuck, Willa and Family

We wish to extend to Pastor Shreffler and the congregation our most sincere thank you for keeping our baby son Camden Lee in you prayers. Your thoughts and prayers for him were sincerely appreciated.

Thank you again.
Jess and Kelsey Howser

Rogation Sunday/Memorial Sunday

We will celebrate Rogation Sunday and Memorial Sunday on May 25. Our worship service will have elements of both blessing God's creation and remembering those who died while fighting for their country.

Rogation Sunday always takes place on the Sixth Sunday of Easter. The word "Rogate" means to "Beseech," and we will beseech God to look with favor on our seeds, our soil, our weather, our farmers, and our farm equipment.



If the weather is good, we will end each service outside with the blessings of soil, seed, and water as well as our farmers and equipment. You are welcome to bring plants, seeds, and even gardening tools for blessing. You can also drive your tractor to church for a blessing. We will finish with "The Farm Song."

Pastor Out of Office May 6

Pastor Laura will be out of the office all day on Tuesday, May 6, due to a medical appointment in Kettering that day. She will be back in the office on Wednesday, May 7.

Dorcas Circle Projects

Dorcas Circle will continue its outreach projects each month.

Every second Sunday -- May 11 this month -- Dorcas Circle will collect food for the Little Cross-Lit Pantry. Those items can be placed beneath the coat rack with the other totes containing food.

Every fourth Sunday -- May 25 this month -- Dorcas Circle will collect items for the Interfaith Pantry at Sardinia Hope Church and the Adams County Homeless Shelter. You can find lists of needs for the pantry and shelter on the large cupboard in the Access entrance. Items may also be placed there.



Summer Lunch/Agape Meetings

Those working with the Agape Summer Lunch group will meet at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 13, at Sardinia Hope Church. We will finalize our plans for the summer lunches as well as check calendars. Summer lunches will be distributed beginning on Wednesday, May 28. Pastor Laura, Linda Sue Stephan, Amy Beyer, and Elizabeth Waits represent Peace for the summer lunch program.

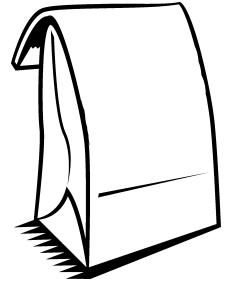
The quarterly Agape Meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m., also at Sardinia Hope. Pastor Laura, Linda Sue, and Amy represent Peace at Agape.

Pictorial Directory

Say "cheese!" We are planning a church directory, with pictures probably being taken sometime in the fall. Besides the directory, you will also get an app of the directory for your phone. The directory and app are free to those who sit for pictures for the directory. There is no cost to sit for the pictures. The only cost is for whatever picture package you might decide to buy, and you are not compelled to buy photo packages. Watch the bulletin, Beacon, and FYI for dates, and start putting your outfits together!

Summer Lunches

Each summer, the churches that form Agape feed at-risk children in the Sardinia area. We have served more than 1,000 lunches each summer. The Agape Summer Lunch Program will begin on Wednesday, May 28. Peace will once again pack lunches on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. and meet to distribute them at 11:30 a.m. on Fridays.



We will meet to pack on Thursday, May 29, for the first time, and distribute lunches on Friday, May 30. We are in need of drivers and other helpers to distribute. A sign-up sheet will be available on the Access Hall table soon.

Game Night

Youth and Family is hosting their next game night on Friday, May 30. Snacking begins at 6:30pm and games start at about 7:00 p.m. Come join the fun. Please contact Natalie Vogel if you have any questions.





Easter Thanks

The LYO thanks everyone who came out early on Easter morning for the Sunrise Service and Breakfast! It's always nice to see such a good crowd!

And we thank the youth and their leaders for their early Easter events. Thank you to the young people for the Easter Sunrise Service. Thanks to the LYO for a delicious Easter breakfast and thanks to those who donated breakfast items.



Workers remove trees at front of church. (circa 1940s)

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: peacelutherangtown.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

Synod Thrive Campaign

Our THRIVE campaign with the synod will finish at the end of July. Many of you have already sent in your full pledges. Once this campaign is over, you can consider giving that amount to the church as a gift of stewardship.

Thank you to everyone who was faithful in giving to this. The synod has accomplished its goal.



Executive Committee and Church Council Meetings

The Executive Committee and Church Council Meetings are being changed from the second Sunday of May to the first Sunday of May due to Mother's Day. The Executive Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, May 4, followed by the full Church Council at 6:00 p.m.

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

Pre-Synod Assembly Meetings

The Southern Ohio Synod will hold two pre-synod assembly ZOOM meetings in May to provide more information to voting members about what will go on during the Assembly on June 6 and 7. Our voting members will be Pastor Laura (rostered member), Pastor Ron (retired rostered leader), and George Fowler (lay voting member). Voting members can choose one of two dates: 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Monday, May 12, or Wednesday, May 21. ZOOM links will be sent to registered voting members shortly before each meeting.

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 — March 9, 2025

Present: Steve Bundy, Cheryl Phillips, George Fowler, Connie Perry, Linda Sue Stephan, Marion Ralston, Natalie Vogel, Joan Yockey, Pastor Laura Shreffler, Elizabeth Waits, Dan Wagel, Dorothy Carrington, Sue Bohrer

Vice President Marion Ralston called the meeting to order and read the mission statement.

Cheryl Phillips 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 Elizabeth Waits seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Pastor Laura Shreffler read the pastor's report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Church Property—Ron Mitchell has completed the fix to the inducer fan. An inspection was completed on the boiler, and it was reported that the safety valve needs to be replaced. Another minor concern regarding a leak was identified... more to come on this fix.

A bid was received from Diamond Cut Lawncare for the 2025 mowing season regarding the church and parsonage. The bid is \$65 per visit. Cheryl Phillips made a motion to accept this bid and Joan Yockey seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Cemetery—A bid was received from Diamond Cut Lawncare for the 2025 mowing season regarding the cemetery. The bid is \$435 per visit. Cheryl Phillips made a motion to accept this bid and Linda Sue Stephan seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Evangelism—Taste of Arnheim has been scheduled for April 26.

A \$600 donation for the summer lunch program was received from the American Legion in Sardinia.

Free Yardsale – no decision has been made on whether or not to hold this event this year. An interest form has been placed on the hall table.

They will be reaching out to the company who did our last directory (2019) to see what options they have for a new one... more to come.

Have begun discussing the fair parade... more to come. We will participate in the VA Home Bingo again in November.

Scholarship—There will be a meeting on 03/30 at 9:30am with the students.

Christian Education—They recently held a meeting. A letter has been received from Daniel.

Joy and Tara are working on Sunday School plans for Easter Sunday.

Worship & Music—Palm Sunday service – 4/13, Maundy Thursday service – 4/17, Good Friday service – 4/18, Easter services – 4/20

Working on grad gifts.

Readers are needed for upcoming Lent services.

Youth & Family—Natalie and Susan met on 3/6.

Flower Sale began on 3/9.

Game nights have been scheduled for the remainder of the year, the next one is on 3/21.

As of now, a Harvest Party is planned for October 12. This does conflict with a Council meeting, that will need to be addressed as we get closer.

Working on plans for Easter Sunrise Service and breakfast.

They've requested a bulletin board dedicated to the LYO to post reminders/updates. They've been given permission to use the bulletin board above the water fountain.

An LYO meeting is planned for May 18.

Linda Sue Stephan made a motion to accept the Committee Reports and Cheryl Phillips seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

The group discussed talking to families before future funeral services about children running the halls. This is to keep their safety in mind.

Offerings from Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and the midweek Lenten services will be split between Agape and the Wilson Home in West Union.

Pastor Laura and a few other Peace members attended the Pregnancy Resource Center Galtentine's Brunch recently.

NEW BUSINESS

A couple property concerns were mentioned and George will look into them. They include the choir room light and the outside railing. The doorbell battery has also been replaced. Propane is currently at 40%.

Natalie shared a couple of ideas she's seen recently from other churches. One is having business cards that members can carry with them that has the church name, address, phone number, and service times. The other was having Bibles available for guests to take if they need them with an 'our gift to you' note inside.

Pastor Laura – we still need a couple of volunteers to attend the SOS Assembly to vote.

Dorothy and Elizabeth are swapping devotion months.

Dan Shared about a recent scam attempt on the church. An email was received from 'President Zac' requesting a pdf of our directory with member information. This information was not provided.

The next meeting is being moved to April 6 due to Palm Sunday service the evening of April 13.

Cheryl Phillips made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Linda Sue Stephan seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Natalie Vogel.

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:30 a.m. Catechism 10:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion 5:30 p.m. Executive Committee Meets 6:00 p.m. Church Council Meets	5 7:00 p.m. Dorcas Circle Meets 6:30-8:00 p.m. Meeting for Synod assembly voting members	6 6:00 p.m. Summer Lunch Program Meeting 7:00 p.m. Agape Quarterly Meeting Both at Sardinia Hope Church	7 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice	8	9	10 1:00 p.m. Chair Pilates
11 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY MOTHER'S DAY 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	12 7:00 p.m. Dorcas Circle Meets 6:30-8:00 p.m. Meeting for Synod assembly voting members	13 6:00 p.m. Summer Lunch Program Meeting 7:00 p.m. Agape Quarterly Meeting Both at Sardinia Hope Church	14 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice	15	16	17
18 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:30 a.m. Catechism 10:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion Noon: LYO Planning Meeting	19 7:00 p.m. Worship and Music Committee Meets	20 7:00 p.m. Sunday School Board Meets	21 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice 6:30-8:00 p.m. Meeting for Synod assembly voting members	22	23	24
25 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ROGATION SUNDAY MEMORIAL SUNDAY 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	26 MEMORIAL DAY 9:30 a.m. Memorial Day Service in Peace Lutheran Cemetery	27	28 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice	29 6:30 p.m. Pack Summer Lunches	30 11:30 a.m. Distribute Summer Lunches 6:30 p.m. Family Game Night	31

The Beacon

Peace Lutheran Church, Arnheim, Ohio

May 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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