

The Beacon

March, 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



Lenten Bible Study

Pastor Laura will continue to lead the Lenten Bible Study, “Dying His Death; Living His Life,” throughout March. The cross and empty tomb of Christ are the prominent signs of Lent and Easter. They signify for us in this holy season that Christ died and rose to life again. But this cycle of death and new life does not stop with Jesus. It continues in us who follow him as he helps us bury what pulls us away from him and cling to what keeps us alive in him.

Bible study meets at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. each Tuesday, and we still have some student guides left. The sign-up sheet is on the Access Hall table. You can switch sessions if you need to, however.



Bible Study Schedule

- Mar. 3 —Session 2 —“Dying to Pride,
Living for Others”
- Mar. 10 —Session 3 —“Dying to Greed,
Living for the
Treasures of Heaven”
- Mar. 17 —Session 4 —“Dying to Doubt,
Living by Faith”
- Mar. 24 —Session 5 —“Dying to Turmoil,
Living in Peace”
- Mar. 31 —Session 6 —“Dying to Judgment,
Living in Grace”

Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday

Holy Week begins with the Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday worship on March 29. At the beginning of each worship service, meet in the hall outside the sanctuary and pick up a palm. Pastor Laura will lead the Processional with Palms, which includes the reading of the Palm Sunday Gospel from Matthew and the blessing of the palms, then we enter the sanctuary waving palms and singing the Processional Hymn/ Gathering Song.

The joy of the processional takes a quick turn into the somber moments before and during Jesus' passion and death. Rather than a sermon, we will have a reader's theater reading of the Passion Gospel according to St. Matthew, followed by a time of silent reflection. This service gives us a chance to think about what this Holy Week means for each of us.

Pastor Laura will need a speaker and a person to present the words of Jesus for each service. Scripts for the Passion Reading will soon be available on the Access Hall table.



The Cross-Lit Church - Faith, Hope and Love

Please Remember in Prayer

George and Dixie Beltz	James and Milly Leach
Bobbie Blevins	Cynthia Marks
Kathe Bradford	Colt McKee
Brittany Brown	Yolanda Meeker
Jacob Brown	Esther Miller
Sandy Brown	Estel Newberry
Brent, Carol and Alisha	Dorothy Orr
Lilly Combs	Family of Jane Pack
Kendal Conley	Clarence Perry
Melissa Dahlheimer	Brenda Reed
Michelle and Craig Dick	Tom Reifenberger
Betty Donathan	Karla Ritchie
Aiden Fowler	Mattie Robinette
Missy Freeman	Amanda Roush & Josh Endsley
Maura Fultz	Nicki Seip
Betty Gelter	Danny Stephens
Karen Gilliam	Carl Stuck
Michell Grey	Family of Heath Tolliver
Judith Harp	Nikki Tracy
Pastor Scott Henning	Michelle Uhl
Dorothy Hibbs	Bob and Cindy Verville
Judy Huber	Roger Vogel
Josh Humble	Dana Voight
Lydia Humble	Michelle Wallace
Diana Sorrell Hyde	Charlotte Wenzlick
Donna Johnson	Amy White
Marlene Kress	Brent Wilson
Ronald Land	Holly Wilson
Angela Lauders	Wayne Winter

Souper Bowl Sunday

During our Souper Bowl celebration, the “noisy” and “quiet” offerings totaled \$280.03. This offering was given to the Agape Interfaith Food Pantry at Sardinia Hope Church. Thanks to everyone for your contributions and thanks to those who counted the noisy part!

Agape Palm Sunday Stations of the Cross

Peace will host the Agape Palm Sunday Stations of the Cross Service at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, March 29. Unlike the Good Friday Stations of the Cross, these Stations cover Scripture leading up to Holy Week. The “Pilgrim” travels from station to station around the sanctuary, following the processional cross. Between each station, the words of the thief on the cross, “Jesus, Remember Me When You Come into Your Kingdom,” are sung.

The offering will go toward the Agape Emergency Fund. Dorcas Circle will provide light refreshments following worship. Others are welcome to bring refreshments as well. Use the fellowship time to get to know your Christian neighbors!

Prayers for Homebound and Those in Care Facilities

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

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.

“We are beggars; this is true.”

-- Thought to be Dr. Martin Luther's Last Words

Dear Church Family,

This might have been better for February than for March, but as I am writing this, we are nearing the Commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther, Reformer, on February 18. With some exceptions, commemorations often fall on death days rather than on birthdays. So it is with Martin Luther, who died on February 18, 1546, at the age of 62.

Luther, who was born in Eisleben, Germany, but lived most of his life in Wittenberg, was traveling to Eisleben once more in the company of his three sons. He had been suffering in recent years from gall bladder, constipation, and a host of other worrisome problems, but he kept pressing on. Two princes, who were brothers, in Eisleben were arguing over family property, and the city fathers of Eisleben had sent out a call for Luther to help. Luther started for Eisleben on Feb. 16, and he did meet with the brothers to try to find answers to this argument, which threatened to break the family. He made some inroads, but became ill. He was put up in an inn. At one point on Feb. 18, he gave a handwritten note to one of his sons that read "We are beggars; this is true." These are thought to be his last words. He had a second heart attack and died.

We are beggars; this is true. I think about this statement often. My favorite part of being a pastor is presiding at the sacraments. Although I have baptized all ages from a 23-week baby between life and death and a 103-year-old grandmother, I often think of the infants, who have nothing to give to God. They are concerned only with themselves and their needs. They are beggars, but they are also an illustration of God's grace. And when you come to me at Holy Communion, you come with your hands open—the hands of a beggar. You have nothing to give to God but your hearts, but your hands and your hearts are ready to receive Jesus' body and blood. This is another illustration of God's grace.

Martin Luther was all about grace, especially because he did not make its acquaintance until he was an adult. His parents often beat him for something as simple as taking an apple from a bowl because he was hungry. I think that because

From the Pastor



of this, he often saw God as an angry parent whom he could never make happy.

The teachings of the church at that time were not so much of grace as of an angry Creator who demanded good works of you (and money) if you wanted to spend (or wanted your family to spend) eternity with God.

Luther went to Wittenberg to teach the Scriptures to seminarians. In his deep dives into Scripture, especially Romans and Psalms, Luther found grace. He found that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, but he was reconciled and made righteous through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament prophets, God often says to the people he chose to be his people: "I hate, I despise your feasts!" How could they offer him feast days when they treated others so poorly. Micah says, "What does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."

I wish we could find one politician who even knew what the word "humble" means! Because Luther found that he was a beggar who had nothing to give to God but open hands and an open heart.

We are in Lent now, with some time and some love to give to God. Stretch your hands out to God for learning and for grace. God will fill those empty hands with what you need—his love forever.

We are beggars; this is true.

In Christ,
Pastor Laura

Game Night

Youth & Family will host a game night on Friday, March 13. The festivities will begin at 6:30 p.m. Bring a snack to share and join the fun. Drinks will be provided. We hope to see you there!

The Wii will be set up, and of course there will be Euchre. This time we'll even have some table tennis!

LYO Meeting

There will be an LYO meeting on Sunday, March 15 at noon in the Youth Room. There will be food! We'll be discussing Mother's Day and Easter ... among some other items. Please try to attend! If you're old enough to be in school, you're old enough for the LYO! We'd love to have you join us!

Empower Youth

Members from the LYO will be spending some time volunteering at Empower Youth in Bethel on March 7. Look for more details about our experience in the April Beacon.



Flower Sale

The LYO flower sale order forms will be available on Sunday, March 1! Orders will be accepted through Sunday March 22. The flowers will be available for pick-up at the end of April or beginning of May. They will once again be coming from Raines Farms and Greenhouses in Seaman.

This sale is always popular and is a great fundraiser for the LYO! All support is greatly appreciated! If you have any questions, please reach out to Natalie Vogel.



Agape Shrove Tuesday Worship and Pancake Dinner

Harper Bradford and Zane Taylor, along with Pastor Laura, led the presentation on the symbolism of the ingredients used for Shrove Tuesday Pancakes after the Agape worship service on Tuesday, Feb. 17, at the Sardinia Hope Church.

Valentine Dinner

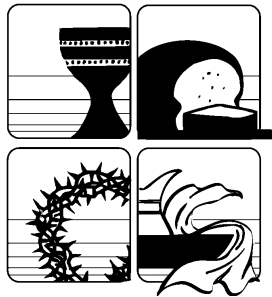
The LYO hosted their annual Valentine Dinner on February 7. They served 54 guests and donations totaled \$677. The donations will support LYO group activities. It was great having such a large group of young people working together ... we had 10!

Thank you to everyone who helped cook, decorate, setup/clean-up and to all who came out to enjoy a nice dinner and support the group! We're already looking forward to next year!



Holy Week

We will conclude Holy Week, the solemn, week-long commemoration of Jesus's final days, passion, death, and burial with Maundy Thursday worship on April 2 and the Good Friday Tenebrae Service on April 3. Both services begin at 7:00 p.m. Mark them on your calendars and keep an eye on the March bulletins for further information.



Lenten Devotions

The children's Lenten devotional has arrived! "Step by Step with the Savior" is a Lenten Tabletop Window Calendar for our youngest members. Similar to the Advent calendar, each side of this triangular tabletop window calendar shows faithful and colorful scenes of our Savior's journey to the cross. The 41 windows on this calendar open to reveal Lenten symbols and Bible verses leading children and their families toward Easter. Pick them up for your children or grandchildren.

The adult devotions are "Dying His Death, Living His Life." We are reminded that we are buried with Christ in his death so that we might live with him in his resurrection. We still have a few of these devotion books left.

We also have a few "Lighten Up for Lent" devotions remaining for teens and young adults. Lent is about salvation and the God who sent his Son to enliven and enlighten us. Teens and young adults will fix their eyes past the cross to the open tomb of Easter and the bright light that shines for all of us there.

Photo Directory

Pam Baker of Universal Church Directories met recently with Joan Yockey, Natalie Vogel, Pastor Laura, and Dan Wagel to finish assembling all the materials and pictures for the upcoming church directory. Weather and illness have slowed us down, so we are happy to be finished with this part! Pastor Laura took the materials to the Post Office. Universal Directories will send us a proof book, which we will review with Pam to correct mistakes. Then they will send out the directories! Thank you for your patience.

Lenten Midweek Worship

We have begun our Lenten Midweek Worship Services, which will be held at 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday. The midweek services carry on the Lenten theme of "Dying His Death; Living His Life." These services are about 40 minutes long and include readings, a short sermon, and hymns.

In Lent, we are reminded that we are buried with Christ in his death so that we might live with him in his resurrection. The old is gone. The new has come. Each day affords us a chance to die to self and live for him. In word and song in these worship services for the holy season, contemplate those things that were put to death on the cross so that we might receive blessings of new life in Christ.

Midweek Worship Schedule

- March 4 — Week 2 — "Dying to Greed,
Living for the
Treasures of Heaven"
- March 11 — Week 3 — "Dying to Doubt,
Living by Faith"
- March 18 — Week 4 — "Dying to Turmoil,
Living in Peace"
- March 25 — Week 5 — "Dying to Judgment,
Living in Grace."



Dorcas Circle to Meet

Dorcas Circle will resume meeting at 7:00 p.m. Monday, March 9, in Frey Hall. We will catch up on what we need to know and prepare for upcoming events.

Pastor Laura will lead our Bible study, Max Lucado's Life Lessons from Acts. We will continue with Lesson Eight, "Unity Among Believers." The early Christian church, much like our churches today, had struggles with discord. God wanted to extend the boundaries of Christianity to the Gentiles, but the Jewish Christians weren't sure they were ready for that. God made it clear to Peter that there were to be no exclusions. How do we deal with differences today? We look forward to gathering once again in fellowship and learning.

Council Minutes — January 11, 2026

PRESENT: Sue Bohrer, Dorothy Carrington, George Fowler, Terry Holland, Jerry Jewell, Tricia McClain, Cheryl Phillips, Marion Ralston, Pastor Laura Shreffler, Zach Taylor, Dan Wagel, Joan Yockey

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

Pastor Laura Sheffler led devotions.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Church Property—The sink was fixed in the kitchen.

Church signs will cost \$250.00 total. Joan reported she would pay for the five posts for the signs.

Total to complete soffit work is \$5,598 see below for motions regarding the costs of the work.

Finance & Investment—Large donation and discussed would like to put the money into the Thrivent so income could be earned off of it.

Evangelism—Meeting is February 23rd.

Worship & Music—Meeting next Monday to discuss Lent and Easter. Easter service will be April 5th.

Youth & Family—15 people participated in the Christmas caroling on 12/21/26. Were able to make 7 stops. Thanks to Melissa Taylor and Crosswell for organizing/providing the bus driver.

8 youth and their leaders and chaperones attended Quake on 1/9/26-1/11/26

Valentine Dinner is scheduled 2/7/26 at 5 p.m. The sign-up form will be available beginning 1/18/26.

Susan is stepping down from Youth & Family. Sammi Gelter and Marybeth Boyer will now be volunteering with Youth & Family.

LYO give a HUGE shout out to all the work Susan did for LYO!

Tricia McClain made a motion to accept the committee reports and Cheryl Phillips seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

George Fowler made a motion to pay for the increase of \$1,309.00 to cover the cost to begin the soffit. The total cost for the repairs will be \$5,598. Tricia McClain seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was passed.

Spoke about gutters being cleaned by a professional.

Spoke about the conditions of the cemetery roads not being in good shape, and looking into getting quotes on costs.

NEW BUSINESS

Donna Mahanes reported to council member that she would provide support financially in providing a light source and get evaluations for the light behind the altar which is behind the stain glass window.

Nikki Tracy proposed reducing possible council members from 12 to 9 members. Other council members proposed decreasing the amount of time serving on counsel from 3 years to 2 years. Council will discuss this more in the future due to this will result in needing to make a change on the constitution.

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

The next council meeting will take place on February 8th 2026.

Respectfully submitted by Tricia McClain

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

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

New Catechism Class Begins

We will start a new catechism class for our young people beginning Sunday, March 1. The class will meet each Sunday between services (approximately 9:35-10:15) as often as we can. We expect that we may have sessions that we will have to cancel. The students will meet for approximately two years before they affirm their baptisms and become adult members of Peace.

Each student will have an updated student handbook called Here I Stand that also includes The Lutheran Handbook. We will begin with a study of Martin Luther and his Small Catechism. Please keep these new students in prayer.



Catechism

Adult Instruction

We have begun instruction with adults who want to be confirmed as members of Peace Lutheran Church. We are currently studying Luther's Small Catechism, beginning with the Ten Commandments. We have set a tentative date of Sunday, April 12, for confirmation. Adult Instruction meets at 7:00 p.m. each Thursday in Frey Hall.

Praise Band Practice Schedule

Due to Lenten services, the Praise Band will practice at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 17, and 25, during Lent. Praise Band will return to Wednesday practice at 7:00 p.m. on April 1, during Holy Week.



Summer Lunch Meeting

The first meeting to prepare for the Agape Summer Lunch Program will be held at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, at the Sardinia Church of the Nazarene. We will look at calendars and decide which days each church will serve.

We serve thousands of lunches each summer to children up to the age of 18 (or graduation) and also to some senior citizens. You are welcome to sit in on this meeting. Linda Sue Stephan, Amy Beyer, and Elizabeth Waits work with the Summer Lunch Program.

Congregational Meeting

We held our annual Congregational Business Meeting on Sunday, Feb. 22. Copies of the reports from the Pastor and the treasurers are available on the table in the Access hallway.

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.

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT 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 LYO Flower Sale Begins	2 7:00 p.m. Dorcas Circle Meets	3 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice	4 7:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten Service	5 7:00 p.m. Adult Instruction	6 6:30 p.m. Youth and Family Game Night	7 LYO at Empower Youth in Bethel
8 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT <i>Set Clocks Forward!</i> 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	9 7:00 p.m. Dorcas Circle Meets	10 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice	11 7:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten Service	12 7:00 p.m. Adult Instruction	13 6:30 p.m. Youth and Family Game Night	14
15 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT 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 LYO Meeting at Noon in Youth Room	16 Pastor at Bishop's Theological Convocation in Columbus 7:00 p.m. Worship and Music Committee Meets	17 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice 7:00 p.m. Summer Lunch Program Meeting	18 7:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten Service	19 7:00 p.m. Adult Instruction	20	21
22 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT 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 10:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion	23 7:00 p.m. Evangelism Committee Meets	24 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice	25 7:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten Service	26 7:00 p.m. Adult Instruction	27	28
29 THE PASSION OF OUR LORD/PALM SUNDAY 8:30 a.m. Palm Processional, Reading of the Passion, and Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:30 a.m. Catechism 10:30 a.m. Palm Processional, Reading of the Passion, and Holy Communion	30	31 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice		Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	

The Beacon

Peace Lutheran Church, Arnheim, Ohio

March, 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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