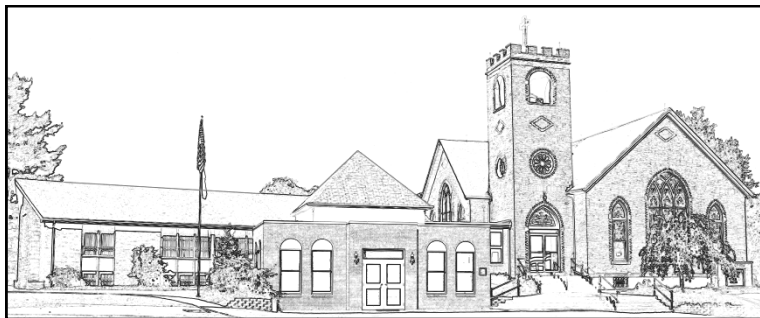


Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church
The Cross-Lit Church

10581 Day Hill-Arnheim Rd
Georgetown, OH 45121

Ministers, All Peace Lutheran Members

Pastor Laura Shreffler
Phone: 937-446-2747



Mother's Day and Rogation Sunday

We will honor our mothers and celebrate God's blessings of creation on Sunday, May 10.

During worship, we will honor mothers, daughters, aunts, and those who have been like mothers. We will have a blessing at the beginning of each service. At the end of each service, the LYO will present gifts to the mothers.

On Rogation Sunday, we will beseech God for blessings for the planting season, earth, water, soil, favorable weather, farm equipment, and our farmers. Rogation comes from the Latin word *rogate*, which means "to beseech." We will sing hymns and songs of creation, and if the weather is favorable, we will go outside after the final hymn to bless soil, water, seeds, and the farm equipment and our farmers. You can bring in seeds or plants to be blessed, and you are welcome to even drive your tractor to church for a blessing! If your little ones have play tractors or gardening tools, bring them for blessing as well! We will finish by singing "The Farm Song." If it is raining, we will gather in the hallway in front of the windows.

Welcome the Holy Spirit!

We will end our Easter season worship and celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit with our Day of Pentecost service on Sunday, May 24. Remember to wear red -- or other "fire" colors of yellow or orange -- as a sign of the Holy Spirit. The first Pentecost was a wild day of wind, fire, speaking in tongues but so that everyone could understand, and a baptism of 3,000! How exciting can we make our Pentecost?

Volunteers Needed

With Dorothy Carrington in rehab at the Villa, and Nikki Tracy no longer with us, we are in need of some volunteers. Zach Taylor prepared a sign-up sheet for those who can volunteer to help clean the church each week. Zach, Melissa, Zane, and Maya will continue cleaning, but Dorothy cleaned throughout the week during her many stops at church. If you can clean - even if it isn't every week, please sign up and let Zach know what you can do.

Lisa Jewell will now have both children's Sunday School classes. She could use an assistant to help with crafts and keep the children focused on listening and learning. Talk to Lisa or anyone on the Sunday School Board if you would be willing to help.

Speaking of the Sunday School Board, we are now missing two people from a very small board. If you are interested in joining us, please talk to Pastor Laura or Debbie Mitchell. Dorothy is our liaison from Church Council, so if there is anyone from Church Council who would like to temporarily sit in, that would be great. Sunday School Board usually meets every three months on the third Tuesday of the month. Our next meeting is planned for Tuesday, May 19, at 7:00 p.m.

Our thanks to everyone who has volunteered to take on these duties in the interim.



Sunday School

Remember in Prayer

George and Dixie Beltz	Ronald Land
Bobbie Blevins	Angela Lauders
Kylie Boyer	Milly Leach
Kathe Bradford	Roxanne Malone
Brittany Brown	Family of Everett Marcum
Jacob Brown	Cynthia Marks
Sandy Brown	Colt McKee
Brent, Carol and Alisha	Yolanda Meeker
Dorothy Carrington	Esther Miller
Lilly Combs	Estel Newberry
Kendal Conley	Dorothy Orr
Melissa Dahlheimer	Cullen Pearcy
Chris Davis	Family of Adrian Phillips
Michelle and Craig Dick	Brenda Reed
Family of Kathy Forsee	Tom Reifenberger
Aiden Fowler	Karla Ritchie
Missy Freeman	Mattie Robinette
Betty Gelter	Family of Amanda Roush
Michell Grey	Nicki Seip
Judith Harp	Brooks Shupert
Pastor Scott Henning	Linda Sue Stephan
Dorothy Hibbs	Danny Stephens
Judy Huber	Family of Heath Tolliver
Josh Humble	Family of Nikki Tracy
Lydia Humble	Bob Verville
Family of Diana Sorrell Hyde	Roger Vogel
Family of Derious Johnson	Dana Voight
Donna Johnson	Michelle Wallace
Family of Michael Kabler	Brent Wilson
Bill Kidwell	Holly Wilson
Marlene Kress	Wayne Winter

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

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

Pastors on Vacation

Pastor Laura and Pastor Ron will be on vacation from April 28 through Monday, May 4. Most of their time will be spent in Darke County, where they will attend the wedding of a former parishioner and will be joined by Rebecca and Seraphina.

Pastor Doug Campbell will be the supply pastor for Sunday, May 3, and looks forward to worshiping with you again!

Pastor Laura will be in the office briefly on Tuesday, May 5, before she leaves for a medical appointment in Kettering. She will be back to a normal schedule beginning Wednesday, May 6.

Thank You

Dorothy Carrington is now convalescing in Room 203 at The Villa in Georgetown. As Dorothy recovers and works through rehab, she wants everyone to know she is thankful for your prayers, cards, and visits. God bless you.

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.

**"Stay with us, till night has come:
Our praise to you this day be sung.
Bless our bread, open our eyes:
Jesus, be our great surprise."**

"Stay with Us" WOV #743, v. 1

Dear Friends,

We have just finished the story of "The Road to Emmaus," one of my favorite post-Easter stories. At the 10:30 a.m. service, I added one of my favorite hymns, though it may be new to you: "Stay with Us." The words in those five verses are wonderful and remind us of the words of Jesus' disciples at the end of that walk to Emmaus: "Stay with us."

Compassion and its rationale are so simple. Stay with us, stranger, because it's almost evening. Break bread with us, stranger, because you are hungry. Take my coat because you're cold. Sit down because you're tired.

Growing up, I knew a family whose father kept a tally of his children's stars—the stars they were going to be sporting in their crowns when they got to heaven. So far, it was Girl, 1; Boys, 0. The girl had saved one soul, so she was going to have one star in her crown. The boys were duds. The motivation for saving souls was bling.

I don't know exactly what it means to save a soul—I was always under the impression that it was God's job—but I think that life itself can save our own souls, teaching us to actually care about people. I am old enough now that my life probably counts as a lifetime, and maybe because I have traveled down a long-enough road, compassion seems the most beautiful thing. And I grieve the lack of it in the world today.

Matthew 15:32, a very simple verse, is one of my favorites lately: "Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said,

"I have compassion for the crowd because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat, and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way."

Jesus has compassion on the people because they are hungry. If he sends them away, they might faint. It's not for glory, or to avoid shame, or to be able to brag, or for salvation, or for a Las Vegas-

From the Pastor



style crown that Jesus feeds the crowd. He feeds them because they are hungry. And then in the Emmaus Gospel, the two men urge Jesus—a stranger—to stay with them because it is evening and there are no streetlights.

How do we practice compassion each day?

In Christ,
Pastor Laura

Summer Lunch Program

Those on the Summer Lunch Committee will meet to wrap up plans for the program at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 19, at the Sardinia Church of the Nazarene. Linda Sue Stephan, Amy Beyer, and Elizabeth Waits represent Peace, but others are welcome to come to the meeting.

Members of Peace will meet on Thursday evenings to pack lunches and will meet at the church on Friday mornings to distribute the lunches. Our first evening for packing will be at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 28. Our first morning for delivering lunches will be Friday, May 29. With Dorothy in rehab, we are in need of more people to help and more people to drive. A sign-up sheet will be available in mid-May.

Agape Quarterly Meeting

Agape will hold its quarterly meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, May 14, here at Peace. We will continue to discuss getting a 501(c)(3) exemption so we can apply for grants. We also will discuss the Summer Lunch Program and the Back-to-School Giveaway.



Tracy Gelter with husband Jeff

My name is Tracy Gelter and I've been married to Jeff Gelter for 40 years. We have two daughters, Abby and Samantha. I grew up in the Arnheim area and my parents, Roger and Doris Vogel, still live in Arnheim. I've worked at Adams Brown Head Start (ABCAP) for 25 years. In my spare time I love spending time with my grandchildren and my dog, Maggie. I also like going on day trips with my family.

Abby Bradford with husband Matt and children

Hello, my name is Abby Bradford. I am the daughter of Tracy & Jeff Gelter. I have been married to my best friend, Matt, for 14 years! Together we have six children: Tyler (32), Noah (28), Abby Grayce (18), Grayson (16), Hunter (13), and Harper (12). We also have three grandchildren: Colton, Liam, and Hadleigh. When I am not with my family, you can find me working. I work two jobs. My full-time job is being the Practice Coordinator for ACRMC Family Medicine. My part-time job is working for the Ripley Life Squad as an EMT. When I have spare time, my favorite thing to do is crafting.



Samantha Gelter with niece and nephews

Hi, my name is Samantha Gelter, you can call me Sammi! I'm the daughter of Tracy & Jeff Gelter. I'm a dog mom and an Aunt of 3! I work for Parkers Pizzeria and I'm very passionate about my job. I love meeting new people everyday! When I'm not working you can catch me doing all the cool Aunt stuff or just hanging out with my family. I'm very excited to finally be a part of this church family!

Marybeth Boyer with daughter Kylie

Hello, I am Marybeth Boyer. I'm a mom to Kylie and proud fur-mom to Toby. I balance a full-time career in insurance with a passion for part-time massage therapy. I live for good music, great food, and quality time with the people who matter most—friends and family! I am excited to be part of Peace Lutheran Church and to grow in my faith alongside my daughter.



In Christian Sympathy

✝ Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Nikki J. Tracy, who died April 6 at Clermont Mercy Hospital. Nikki was very active here at Peace as a Sunday School teacher, head of the Sunday School Board, and a former member of the Senior Choir and Church Council. She loved our children. She will be missed. Our Christian sympathy is extended to her husband, Ron; son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Jessica; daughter and son-in-law, Jenna and Jason Caldwell; grandchildren Nicholas, Dylan, Jaxson, and Jaeda; sister, Sandy Richmond; and many nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held at Peace on April 10 with Pastor Laura Shreffler officiating. Burial was in Peace Lutheran Cemetery. Contributions in Nikki's memory may be made to the Peace Lutheran Remembrance Fund or to the charity of your choice.

✝ We extend our Christian sympathy to Sandy Baker on the death of her sister, Diana Sorrell Hyde, on April 9. Diana had a double-lung transplant earlier this year, but persistent infections kept her from improving. A Celebration of Diana's Life was held April 18 at Otterbein Senior Living. Please keep Sandy and the rest of Diana's family in prayer.

✝ Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Kathy Forsee, the sister of Chuck

Cooper, who died unexpectedly at home on April 13. We keep Chuck and Willa in prayer as well as the rest of Kathy's family.

✝ Funeral services for Amanda Roush were held on April 16, at the Trinity Christian Center in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. Amanda died of a brain tumor on March 23. She was the daughter-in-law of Cindy and Bob Verville. We pray for Amanda's husband, Josh Endsley, and the rest of Amanda's family.

✝ Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Michael Kabler, who died on April 21 after a lengthy battle with cancer. Michael is Dixie Beltz's nephew.

✝ Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of James D. Leach, who died in The Plains, Ohio, on March 26. Jim was Pastor Laura's last uncle. Please keep in prayer his wife, Amelia (Milly); son, Michael; and daughter and son-in-law, Diane and John Redman; grandchildren Samantha Leach, Christine Leach, and Jacob Redman; one brother, Dwight Leach; one niece, Pastor Laura Shreffler; one nephew, David Leach; three stepsons and their wives, Phil and Marilyn, Daniel and Candy, and Paul and Vicki; and several great-nieces and nephews and great-great nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his son, Patrick Leach, and his nephew, Craig Leach. A Celebration of Life is planned for later.



Easter Morning

Thank you to everyone who came to the LYO Sunrise Service and joined us for Breakfast on Easter Sunday! All of the kids did a great job! Also, thank you to everyone who helped to make breakfast a success... from the service preparation to cooking. We couldn't do it without you!



Affirmation of Baptism

Tracy Jo Gelter, Abby Nicole Bradford, Samantha Jo Gelter, and Marybeth Boyer completed a study of the Lutheran faith and were received as new members of Peace at an Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation service on Sunday, April 12. The Worship & Music Committee hosted a reception for the new confirmands in Frey Hall after the service. Please keep these women in prayer.

New Members of Peace

Marybeth Boyer, Samantha Gelter, Pastor Laura, Tracy Gelter and Abby Bradford (L to R)



Sunday School

On Easter morning the Sunday School children enjoyed a "unique" Easter Egg Hunt and crafts.

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

Church Council Date Change

The Executive Committee and the Church Council will meet on Sunday, May 17, due to Mother's Day falling on the second Sunday of the month. The Executive Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m., with the Church Council meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Memorial Day Service

We will have our annual Memorial Day Service on Monday, May 25, at the Peace Lutheran Cemetery. We gather in the cemetery before the Russellville



Americal Legion arrives at about 9:30 a.m. We will begin with the Pledge of Allegiance, and Pastor Laura will speak. The Legion will follow with its service, rifle volley and Taps. The LYO will place flags at the graves of our veterans before the service. Please join us as we honor those who have died who were once served our country.

2026 Church Photo Directories

Our 2026 church directories from Universal Church Directories, should be available for distribution beginning Sunday, May 3. Remember that those who had their pictures taken for this directory, and those who submitted pictures will receive a free directory.

250th Birthday Service

The Worship & Music Committee will begin to plan a joint service for Sunday, July 5, as we celebrate our country's 250th birthday on July 4. If you have ideas, we would like to hear them. We are thinking of putting together a choir for that day, so if you have missed singing in a choir or you just want to sing to the glory of God, watch for more information!

Dorcas Circle

Dorcas Circle will meet at 7:00 p.m. Monday, May 11, in Frey Hall. Following a business meeting, Pastor Laura will lead the Bible study from Max Lucado's *Life Lessons from Acts*. We will discuss Lesson Ten, "Presenting the Gospel," on pp. 79 to 87. The Scripture is Acts 17:16-31. At this point in Paul's missionary career, God is already using him to start new churches. In Acts 17, we see him in Athens, witnessing to the Athenians by talking about areas they are interested in. What can we learn about witnessing from Paul? Why are Lutherans known as "shy evangelists?" What attracts people to Christianity? What keeps them away? Come and discuss!

Think about what or who you would like to study next. We have only two more lessons in this study which we'll cover in June and July and a special speaker in August, so we will begin our next Bible study in September.

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 8, 2026

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

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

Pastor Laura led devotions.

The Secretary's report was reviewed. Terry Holland made a motion to accept the report, and Marion Ralston seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

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

Pastor's report was read.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Church Property—Shafer completed the repaired Air-handler over the offices. Transformer blown and a condensate pump needs to be replaced; in addition needed a new blower motor \$677.25.

Blankemeyer Electric did the electric repairs. The repairs were: flag light, exterior lights, and a balance and fluorescent light in the basement. No cost yet.

Cemetery—Diamond Cut Lawn care gave bid of \$435 per visit cemetery and Church property \$65 dollars. Marion made a motion to accept the bid with Diamond Cut Lawn Care and Cheryl 2nd it. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Evangelism—Reviewed wanting to try to get new ideas. There will be a meeting with Sardinia group, March 17th 2026, which is the first summer lunch meeting. July 18th or July 25 for the backpack give away.

Worship & Music—Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. Early Service will be 8:15 a.m. Late Service is 10:15 a.m.

Youth & Family—Valentine dinner on Feb 7; 54 guests, made \$677 in donations.

Harper and Zane helped with the readings at the Shrove dinner.

Six LYO members and some adults volunteered at Empower Youth on March 7. They packed 192 food bags. The group enjoyed the new experience and we will be going back this summer.

The flower sale is currently happening. Orders due by Sunday, March 22. We'll pick up the items at the end of April. This is a great fundraiser for our group!

There is a game night coming up on Friday, March 13. There is an LYO meeting next Sunday, March 15. This meeting will cover Easter plans, Mother's Day, and discussing summer items.

We currently have 11 active LYO youth (Zane, Maya, Hunter, Harper, Kylie, Isabelle, Addy, Emory, Lydia, Larissa, Cullen) There are some others we are hoping to get involved. LYO is open to all school-age youth!

There are birthday items on the Access Hall table. LYO is trying something new and getting the kids a little treat for their birthdays so they know the LYO is thinking about them.

We have a calendar hanging on the bulletin board above the water fountain that is Youth & Family/LYO specific.. trying to keep it updated with info so there is a place to find the info if you need it.

Christian Education—Discussed sponsoring a new girl, Currently Peace Lutheran supports 2 girls.

Wilson's home- 2 individuals aging out. Waiting on list of individuals to sponsor. Planning for Easter Sunday.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Concerned a lot of money is coming out and not a lot of money coming in. Been more expenses due to updates needed for the church. Maybe work through this in Stewardship.

NEW BUSINESS

Plans to splint money donated money to Agape and the Children's home. Due to unknown changes will keep money until there is updates on changes and then plans to donate at later date. Dorothy made a motion to keep donated money until change know and Cheryl Phillips seconded it. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Reviewed the increased amount of lady bugs and possible extermination options.

Reviewed looking for ways to simplify easier care for the candles lit at the church.

Possible leak- Water bill went up about 3 x times the past amount.

Church used a significant amount of propane during the cold season and are currently paying market rates, as we have exhausted our contract discount. Since the tank was recently filled, we are holding off on another refill for now.

We will continue working with Suburban Propane, and church members will help monitor usage and notify us when a refill is needed to avoid unnecessary charges. The current market rate is \$2.71, while our contract rate is \$1.90. Marion has offered to help keep an eye on usage as well.

Church mutual- wants to do a risk assessment.

Boiler inspection- which should be routine

Elevator got a recall- been accidents where children get caught between the folding door and the opening door. Elevator company will look at this and fix it.

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

The next council meeting on April 12th 2026.

Respectfully submitted by Tricia McClain.

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					Pastor on Vacation	
3 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Rev. Doug Campbell will lead worship 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	4	5 Primary Voting Pastor Back in Office	6 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice	7	8	9
Pastor on Vacation						
10 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / ROGATION SUNDAY MOTHER'S DAY 8:30 a.m. Rogation Worship and Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:30 a.m. Catechism 10:30 a.m. Rogation Worship and Holy Communion	11 7:00 p.m. Dorcas Circle Meets	12	13 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice	14 Ascension of Our Lord 7:00 p.m. Agape Quarterly Meeting Here at Peace	15	16
17 SEVENTH 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 11:30 a.m. LYO Meeting 5:30 p.m. Executive Committee Meets 6:00 p.m. Church Council Meets	18 7:00 p.m. Worship and Music Committee Meets	19 7:00 p.m. Sunday School Meets 7:00 p.m. Summer Lunch Meeting, Church of Nazarene	20 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice	21	22	23
24 DAY OF PENTECOST / MEMORIAL SUNDAY 8:20 a.m. Healing Service 8:30 a.m. Pentecost Worship and Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:30 a.m. Catechism 10:30 a.m. Pentecost Worship and Holy Communion	25 9:30 a.m. Memorial Day Service at Peace Cemetery	26	27 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice	28 6:30 p.m. Pack Summer Lunches	29 11:30 a.m. Distribute Summer Lunches	30
31 THE HOLY TRINITY 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						

The Beacon

Peace Lutheran Church, Arnheim, Ohio

May, 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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