

The Beacon

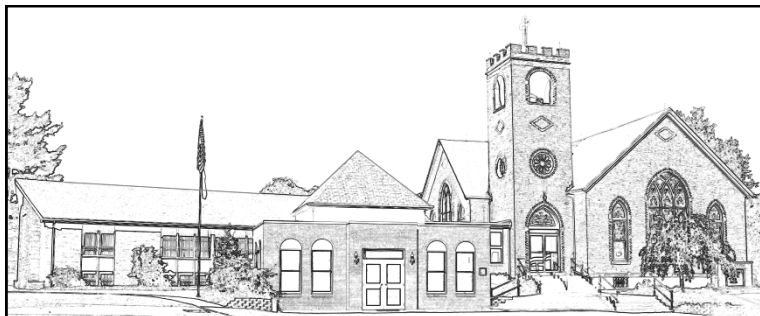
October, 2026

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



Reformation and "God's Work-Our Hands" Sunday

We have a full Sunday on Oct. 25 as we observe both Reformation Sunday and "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday.

We will have one worship service at 10:00 a.m. Wear red, as we remember how the Holy Spirit led Martin Luther to proclaim the message of God's grace!

We will begin with a carry-in breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Representatives from the One Plus God ministry will be back to talk to us both during breakfast and during worship about this past summer's mission trip to Tanzania, and particularly Bariadi, the orphanage that we support. We will have a love offering for Bariadi and tie our support there in with Martin Luther's preachings. We will not have Sunday School, Adult Forum, or Catechism.

Following worship, we will have a Special Congregational Meeting to discuss downsizing Church Council.

You should have received a letter from Council President Zach Taylor recently with a proposal to, through attrition, downsize from 12 to 9 council members over the next three years, beginning with our upcoming 2027 council. This should not be a long meeting. Please be present!

Harvest Party

It's that time again ... the LYO invites you to their Harvest Party on Sunday, October 11 at 4:30pm. There will be a Costume Parade (no 'contest' this year ... everyone who participates will get a special treat), a Chili Cook-Off, everyone's favorite Cake Walk, donuts, and maybe an extra treat or two! We are looking for some of our wonderful cooks from Peace to bring a pot of their special chili for the cook-off! Please come join us for some fall fun!



The Cross-Lit Church - Faith, Hope and Love

Remember in Prayer

Tammy Aliff
 Rebecca Babyak
 Marcus Badgely
 Steve Bair
 George and Dixie Beltz
 Family of Brittany Brown
 Dorothy Carrington
 Lilly Combs
 Melissa Dahlheimer
 Chris Davis
 Michelle and Craig Dick
 Aiden Fowler
 George Fowler
 Missy Freeman
 Betty Gelter
 Michell Grey
 Judith Harp
 Pastor Scott Henning
 Dorothy Hibbs
 Judy Huber
 Donna Johnson
 Bill Kidwell
 Family of Ronald Land
 Angela Lauders
 Dwight Leach
 Milly Leach

Cynthia Marks
 Jeremy McFarland
 Joe McFarland
 Yolanda Meeker
 Debbie Mitchell
 Estel Newberry
 Family of Dorothy Orr
 Anna Lou Ralston
 Brenda Reed
 Tom Reifenberger
 Karla Ritchie
 Connie Sawyers
 Nicki Seip
 Pastor Ron Shreffler
 Family of David Snapp
 Danny Stephens
 Paula Taylor
 Ron Tracy
 Bob Verville
 Family of Dana Voight
 David Wagner
 Holly Wilson



Prayers for Homebound and Those in Care Facilities

Sandy Brown - The Ashford of Mt. Washington
 Marlene Kress - Monarch Meadows
 Cameron McCall - at home
 Esther Miller - Monarch Meadows, 937-205-7658
 James Wagerl - 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, Elijah Lawrence and Adam Vogel

Senior Member Birthdays

Lee Schweickart (3-Oct)
 7379 Free Soil Rd - PO Box 3
 Georgetown, OH 45121

Shirley Berz (27-Oct)
 5248 Camp Run Rd
 Georgetown, OH 45121

Candy Needed!

The Evangelism Committee plans to be a part of the Georgetown Trunk-or-Treat celebration at the end of October. Right now, we do not have a date (possibly October 29 or 30), time, or even a location (Courthouse Square? Fairgrounds?), but we do know that we need candy! If you can donate candy, we will have a container in the lobby, or you can put a cash donation in the offering plate in an envelope marked "Candy for Trunk-or-Treat." Thank you!

Thank You

We want to thank everyone for the prayers, calls and visits while I was at OVM. Thanks to Dorcas Circle for the basket of goodies—Richard and I have enjoyed them. It's good to be back in church.
Richard and Linda Sue Stephan

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.

From the Pastor

"There is no shame in this house."

Dear Friends,

The above quote was made by one of our speakers at the symposium I attended in mid-September about making our churches safe places for those with mental health issues and addiction issues. Many churches already house areas for Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and AlAnon and AlaTeen. But what if every church was a safe space for those who struggle? Jesus said,

"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners."

At the symposium, we spoke of the stigma of mental illness and the stigma of addiction. Mental illness is a chronic illness, just as any physical illness. But because it is mental, what we think we know is often filled with myths. But because of the stigma, many people with mental illness have shame. They do not want anyone to know their battles. It is the same with people who enter 12-step programs. Those programs save lives, just like medications save the lives of those with mental health issues. Many people in 12-step programs enter those programs deeply ashamed of the harm they have done to family and friends, not to mention themselves.

But our speaker said that when he went to a 12-step program in a church for the first time, the minister came to the meeting just for a couple minutes to introduce himself. And he told those attending, "There is no shame in this house." No shame. Just God's grace. Just God's mercy. Are there people in this world who should feel shame? Yes, there are. All of us may feel shame at some time. Many of us could use a big dose of humility. We ask for forgiveness, and remember God's grace. I think of Peter, weeping bitterly after the Lord looked at him as the cock crowed after his final denial. I know he was steeped in shame. But later, during a breakfast of charcoal-grilled fish on the beach, Jesus let Peter know he was forgiven and asked him to lead and feed his lambs and sheep. Jesus was not about reducing Peter to his shame.



Martin Luther, whom we will remember at the end of this month on Reformation Sunday, was also steeped in shame as a young monk, flogging himself to beat his sins out. He didn't see how God could ever forgive his many sins—and he was in the Augustinian religious order! He prayed. He wept. God led him to read Romans 3, where he found that all people sin and fall short of the glory of God. He read that we are saved by grace, that we are justified by Christ's death on the cross. He did not have time to be dragged down by shame after that. He brought the God of grace to the people. No shame in that house.

Many church leaders did not always live pure lives. They had done things of which they may have been ashamed. But they too found that they were saved by grace. This is a good month, as we approach Reformation, to remember that we too are saved by grace and are always busy reforming ourselves. Come and worship with us. God has absolved your shame. There is no shame here.



In Christ,
Pastor Laura

Our Christian Sympathy

✠ Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Robert David Snapp, who died Monday, Aug. 31, at the Hospice of Hope Inpatient Care Center at Adams County Regional Medical Center. David, as he was known to family, was the cousin of Bonnie McFarland and Marion Ralston. He was 85. He was a member of the Russellville Church of Christ. Please keep in prayer his children John Snapp and Tammy Ponson and husband Keith; three grandchildren, Jamie Sweet and Brianna and Nathan Snapp; one brother, Terry Snapp and wife Sue; one niece and nephew; and many cousins. Funeral services were held Friday, Sept. 4, at the Russellville Church of Christ, and David was buried in Peace Lutheran Church Cemetery.

✠ Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Dorothy Elaine Orr, who died Tuesday, Sept. 15, at Hospice of Hope in Adams County Regional Medical Center. She was 91. Funeral services were held here at Peace on Saturday, Sept. 19, with Pastor Laura Shreffler officiating. Burial was in Peace Lutheran Cemetery. Please keep in prayer her sister, Barbara Montgomery; her children, Denise Roberts, Rory Orr, Rick (Donna) Orr; and Colin (Jana) Orr, as well as her grandchildren and their families, and several nieces and nephews. Contributions in Dorothy's memory may be made to Hospice of Hope.

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

Open Dorcas Circle Meeting in October

Ashlie Webster from the Dragonfly Village will join Dorcas Circle's open meeting at 7:00 p.m. Monday, Oct. 12. Once a year, Dorcas Circle opens up its meeting to the congregation's members and friends and brings in a special speaker. We previously had invited Ashlie to speak at our August meeting, but she had to cancel due to a very ill baby grandson.

Ashlie is the director of operations at Dragonfly Village, a 99-acre site developing opportunities in wellness, recovery, and community outreach. It is located outside of Fayetteville and situated on the former Chatfield College campus. It will soon offer shared spaces, childcare, workforce development, and residential support for women and children in recovery. Come and learn about this exciting new venture for those struggling in our area and how we might be able to help.

Southern Ohio Synod Women of the ELCA Biennial Convention

The Southern Ohio Synod Women of the ELCA Biennial Convention will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17, at Zion Lutheran Church in



Hamilton. The theme is "Women in a Broken World." Pastor Rebecca Grate from the synod office will lead the Bible study based on Psalm 34:18: "The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

In-kind gifts will go to support Zion's Food Pantry and include gift cards to Kroger, Meijer, and Aldi, canned fruits and vegetables (preferably with pop-top lids), macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes, canned pasta and chili, box dinners and sides, granola and protein bars, cereal and oatmeal packets, bottles water, and manual can openers.

The registration fee has been waived, but we still need to register. Pastor Laura has printed out information sheets and registration forms, which are on the Access Hall table. Pastor Laura has two seats left in her car if you need a ride. You can send your registration or give it to Pastor Laura, and she will send it.

Special LYO Offering on Oct 4

The LYO will take up a special offering on Sunday, Oct. 4. Several older members of our LYO will attend a Youth Revival at the Sardinia Church of Christ on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 16 and 17. The churches attending will bring special offerings to the revival. Information will be available before Oct. 4 about where the offerings will go.

LYO Sock Drive

Several members of the LYO will be attending the Youth Revival at the Sardinia Church of Christ on October 16-17. One of the projects for the event is a sock drive. Everyone is invited to contribute new pairs of socks for our kids to take with them as their donation. A laundry basket will be available in the Access lobby through Sunday, October 11.

Gazebo Cleanup

Members of the LYO gathered on Sunday, September 6 to work on cleaning up the gazebo and putting a sealant on the furniture. Their work was followed by ice cream!

(Pictures attached).



LYO Cookout in the Gazebo

The LYO hosted their cookout fundraiser on September 20 after church in the refreshed gazebo. The rain held off and everyone was able to gather outside! Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the kids - they raised \$681 to use for upcoming activities. We've had a lot of good feedback about the event and it will likely come back again in the future!

Corn Maze

Youth & Family Ministry invites you to join us for an afternoon at the corn maze on Sunday, October 25 (weather permitting). We will be traveling to Erwin Farm & Corn Maze, 1365 Coon Hill Rd, Winchester. If you would like to car pool, meet at the church parking lot at 1:00 p.m. Otherwise, gather at the maze at approximately 1:30 p.m. Dress for the weather and be prepared in case of mud.



Peace Lutheran Communications	
Peace Lutheran Church 10581 Day Hill-Arnheim Rd Georgetown, OH 45121	• 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

Senior Recognition Sunday

We will recognize our Senior members with a card shower. A gift bag is available for each senior member (those 80 and over) on the table in the Access Hallway. The Worship & Music Committee invites you to fill the bags with notes, cards, and other expressions of appreciation for their wisdom and service. We will celebrate our OWLS—Older, Wiser Lutherans—on Sunday, Oct. 11. We will have a combined service at 10:00 a.m., where we will recognize our Senior members and present them with their gift bags and cards and well wishes from the congregation. Following the service, join us for a carry-in meal honoring our special guests. Joan Yockey is our newest senior member to be celebrated this year.



George Beltz
Hallie Benjamine
Shirley Berz
Janice Blum
Bette Ellis
Betty Gelter
Mary Alice Hertlein
Norma Kelch
Wilfred Kelch
Marlene Kress
Emmy Miller
Esther Miller
Barbara Montgomery
Lee Schweickart
Richard Stephan
Eileen Stewart
Clyde Taylor
Mary Taylor
Kathleen Waddell
James Wagel
Miriam Wagel
Joan Yockey
Ronald L. Yockey

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 — August 9, 2026

Present: Sue Bohrer, Dorothy Carrington, Terry Holland, Tricia McClain, Cheryl Phillips, Marion Ralston, Pastor Laura Shreffler, Linda Sue Stephan, Zach Taylor, Dan Wagel, Joan Yockey

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

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

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

The Pastor's Report was presented and received.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Church Property—Air conditioner filters were replaced.

Joan Yockey made a motion to have the church gutters cleaned by Bill Coliver. Second: Linda Sue Stephan. The members voted, and the motion passed.

Finance & Investment—Suburban Propane rates remain comparable to last year's rates, and a contract has been signed.

\$45,000 was invested through Thrivent with \$2,000 placed in the Remembrance Fund.

Youth & Family—Game Night was held on August 7 with approximately 20 attendees.

LYO meeting scheduled for August 23.

Christian Education—Senior Recognition Sunday will be October 11. We will have one service.

God's Work-Our Hands Sunday and Reformation Sunday on October 25. We will have one service.

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

Cheryl Phillips made a motion to approve presenting to the congregation a proposal to reduce the number of council members from 12 to 9.

Second: Marion Ralston

The members voted, and the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussed asking the Youth Group to clean the gazebo. Tricia McClain will contact the Youth Leader, as liaison, to discuss the possibility.

Discussed obtaining an estimate for removing the gumball tree.

Pastor Laura will be on vacation beginning September 27 and will seek worship coverage.

Discussed the increase in mileage reimbursement rates.

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

Next Meeting: Sunday, September 13, 2026

Respectfully Submitted,

Tricia McClain
Council Secretary

Council Meeting Changed

The October Church Council meeting has been changed to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18, due to the Harvest Party being scheduled for Oct. 11. The Executive Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. This is an important council meeting because we will have a Special Congregational Meeting coming up on Sunday, Oct. 25, and our Annual Congregational Meeting coming up on Sunday, Nov. 15.

Church Signs

We have new church directional signs that will replace some of our missing and older road signs. The new ones are attractive and easy to read. They also feature the current ELCA logo. We are looking for a small team to replace the older and missing church signs. Please see George Fowler, Dan Wagel, or Zach Taylor.



October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST COMMEMORATION OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion Special Offering for LYO Revival 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:30 a.m. Catechism 10:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion Special Offering for LYO Revival	5	6	7 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice	8	9	10
11 TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SENIOR MEMBER RECOGNITION SUNDAY 9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:00 a.m. Catechism 10:00 a.m. Senior Recognition Service, Worship and Holy Communion 11:00 a.m. Senior Recognition Carry-in Dinner 4:30 p.m. LYO Harvest Party	12 7:00 p.m. Dorcas Circle Open Meeting Featuring Dragonfly Village	13	14 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice	15	16	17 8:30 a.m. Southern Ohio Synod Women of the ELCA Biennial Convention, Zion Lutheran Church, Hamilton
						LYO at Youth Revival, Sardinia Church of Christ
18 TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 8:20 a.m. Healing Service 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:30 a.m. Catechism Class 10:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion 5:30 p.m. Executive Committee Meets 6:00 p.m. Church Council Meets	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	22	23	24
25 REFORMATION SUNDAY GOD'S WORK-OUR HANDS SUNDAY 8:30 a.m. Carry-In Breakfast and Bariadi Presentation 10:00 a.m. Reformation and God's Work-Our Hands Worship and Holy Communion Following Worship—Special Congregational Meeting 1:00 p.m. LYO carpools at church 1:30 p.m. LYO Visits Corn Maze	26 7:00 p.m. Evangelism Committee Meets	27	28	29	30	31 Pastor Laura in West Virginia, Returning Saturday Afternoon
						Peace Participates in Georgetown Trunk or Treat, date TBA

The Beacon

Peace Lutheran Church, Arnheim, Ohio

October, 2026

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

Sunday Schedule

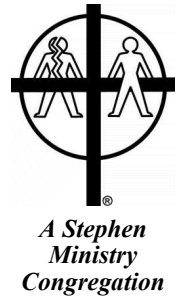
- 8:30 a.m. Praise Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum
10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

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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