

The Beacon

July 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



Youth Sunday

We will have our annual Blessing of the Backpacks on Sunday, Aug. 10. All students, preschool through high school, are welcome to bring in their backpacks for blessing during the children's message. Pastor Laura will have luggage tags for the backpacks and special messages that parents and grandparents can put in their backpacks or lunch boxes.

This year, the backpack blessing will be part of a Youth Sunday sponsored by the Sunday School. We will have one service at 10:00 a.m. Some of our students will play piano. Others will read lessons. Our youth will conduct the whole service other than Holy Communion and the children's message.

During the usual sermon time, Olivia Waits and Grace Humble will speak about their faith journeys and what their faith means to them. We look forward to watching the Holy Spirit guide our young people!

Back-to-School Giveaway

Peace will partner with the Sardinia Church of Christ for our annual Back-to-School Giveaway from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, July 19, and from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 23, in the gym at the Sardinia Church of Christ. We will set up at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, July 18.

Kindergartners through seniors in high school can pick up new backpacks and fill them with school supplies and hygiene items. We will also have shoes of all sizes available for the students to choose from, and chairs for them to try on the shoes. Parents or guardians **MUST** have their children with them when they pick up items.

Peace will donate toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, and feminine pads (not tampons). The other Agape churches will donate funds and other hygiene items. You can place your Back-to-School Giveaway items in the drawer marked "Backpack Blessings" to the very far left in the large wood cupboard in the Access entrance.

Pastor on Vacation

Pastor Laura will be on vacation from Tuesday, July 22, through Monday, July 28. Part of that time, they will be trying to put the house in Akron on the market. They will need several people to help put items in the garage and house whenever they come back from Akron. They don't have the specific date yet, but if you would be willing to help, please see Pastor Ron.

Pastor Jennell Rue will join us on Sunday, July 27, so we will have Holy Communion. Pastor Jen looks forward to being with us again.

Please Remember in Prayer

Family of Anne Anderson
 Roland and Fonda Barr
 Hallie Benjamine
 Family of Steve Benning
 Family of Renee Bergman
 Bobbie Blevins
 Sonny Bradford
 Brittany Brown
 Jimmy Brown
 Sandy Brown
 Vicky and Charlie
 Mike Clement
 Kendal Conley
 Family of Ben Endsley
 Eric Erickson
 Family of Branden Floss
 Karen Gilliam
 Michell Grey
 Judith Harp
 Pastor Scott Henning
 Dorothy Hibbs
 Lydia Humble
 Teresa Johnson
 Cassie Kinker
 Lucas Kuronen
 Ronald Land
 Angela Lauders
 James and Milly Leach

Ruth Litzinger
 Cynthia Marks
 Yolanda Meeker
 Esther Miller
 Miranda and Babies
 Estel Newberry
 Dorothy Orr
 Clarence Perry
 Brenda Reed
 Tom Reifengerger
 Karla Ritchie
 Mattie Robinette
 Amanda Roush & Josh Endsley
 Family of Don Rutherford
 Nicki Seip
 Carter Shideler
 Ken Stiers
 Carl Stuck
 Bill and Paula Taylor
 Michelle Uhl
 Bob and Cindy Verville
 Roger Vogel
 Ava Warmoth
 Amy White
 Dave Willis
 Brent Wilson
 Holly Wilson
 Family of Steven Wood

Senior Member Birthday

Barbara Montgomery (7-Jul)
 412 Lincoln Ave
 Georgetown, OH 45121

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and thinking of me. It's very much appreciated. Please continue praying for me as I continue through this journey.

Thanks,
Karen Gilliam and Family



Game Nights

The Youth & Family Ministry team hosted a game night on Friday, May 30. Eighteen people gathered for a few hours of games, good food, and fellowship!

We look forward to the next game night on Friday, August 15. We hope to see you then!

Prayers for Homebound and Those in Care Facilities

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

Serving in the Armed Forces

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

Prayers for Health, Comfort and Strength

The Prayer List is published each month in the Beacon newsletter. Updates to the Beacon list are included in the weekly bulletins.

Please contact Pastor Laura or the church office to add names to the Prayer List or to request continuing prayers.

Requests for prayers may also be distributed through Peace Lutheran FYI emails and the One Call Now phone service.

Lord of all the worlds, guide the nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all our people the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessing to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Prayer of the Day for a National Holiday
Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

Dear Friends,

We will celebrate Independence Day the first weekend of July. Next summer, we celebrate our nation's 250th birthday. I find it hard to believe it's been 50 years since our Bicentennial! I had just graduated from Bowling Green State University and taken my first newspaper job as a sports writer covering the school and religion beats. I have always liked the Fourth of July from the fireworks (which my little brother HATED) to gathering with family. I was even brave enough to invite my parents and my brother and his family—three rambunctious boys—to Fourth of July dinner two years in a row. We also would all gather at Mom and Dad's. When we went to Kettering, we would walk down to Delco Park to watch fireworks (my six-month-old actually slept through the fireworks and two blaring fire engines. You know, the infant that still didn't sleep through the night.)

What I want to say is that I love my country very much. I have traveled it extensively, although not as extensively as I'd like, and I feel like I'm running out of time. As a child, I always thought "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies" should be the national anthem or "God Bless America," because they were so descriptive. And "God Bless America" was written by Irving Berlin, a refugee. I still have our national anthem memorized, however, and I sing it at any and all athletic or school events. I loved to help in my daughter's class in elementary school, and listen to them both recite the Pledge of Allegiance and sing the "Star-Spangled Banner." I took pride in watching my daughter conduct her high school band in the "Star-Spangled Banner" on Senior Night. We attended the "Pre-Fourth Celebration" of friends in North Star for many years. More than 200 attended this some years. They were a very religious and generous couple—one a Lutheran Democrat and one a Roman Catholic Republican—but both obviously wanted to honor their country. They were patriots.

I consider myself a patriot—a lover of my country.

From the Pastor



But lately, I have been told I am not a patriot. No one has told me I'm not, but statements are made on Facebook, or on news shows, or, more particularly, by people meant to represent us in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. If I hear, "This is what the American people want" one more time ... well, I would write to my representatives, but that seems to go nowhere.

On Flag Day, as we drove through Wilmington on the way to my dad's, the downtown sidewalks in front of the Clinton County Courthouse, hundreds of people took part in the "No Kings" protest. They were well-mannered, and so many of them waved flags as well as carrying banners. I saw photos of other "No Kings" protests—even in places as red as Boise, Idaho. They walked, they chanted and they sang. Yes, I know there were concrete blocks and rocks thrown in LA in some areas. The "No Kings" protests were about more than the LA protest though.

I did not join a protest, but I did see several comments that those protesting must "hate their country" and that obviously they didn't have jobs (the protests were on a Saturday). Those are the comments that make my heart just sink, because I know some of those people, and I know a lot of pastors were in protests across the country. And I know they love their country; you don't stop loving your child because they've gone off-track. And for so many of us, the country feels off-track. It may seem off-track in a different way to others. That doesn't mean we have stopped loving our country, whether we're red or blue or Democrats or Republicans or Independents.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

The original patriots, it must be pointed out, did a lot of protesting. Throwing tea into the Charles River. Repudiating taxes and the stamp act. I wouldn't recommend tar-and-feathering, but they did that too. And yet we call those who took part in the Revolution Patriots. I love my country, but I don't love what's going on in it, I remember the pride my home church took in welcoming a family of Cambodian refugees into Dayton and making sure they had shelter and food and clothing and a leg up until they could fend for themselves. The older women soon ran a dress shop. Everyone learned English, although of course, the small children learned it quickly and did well in school. Clashes between older and younger family members happened because of the difference of customs between Cambodia and the United States, but we tried to learn and appreciate their customs and teach them ours. And I loved that because one of the things I loved about my country was the Statue of Liberty and Emma Lazarus' poem: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses...." I loved the diversity—yes, I said that terrible word—of New York City during the year I lived there. How fun to go through Chinatown for lunch and around the corner to Little Italy for dessert and listen to the various languages. My daughter's church in Nashville includes a sizeable group of Nigerian Lutherans. In fact, once a month, they will have a Sunday where you will hear the lessons and the anthem and some verses of the hymns in Swahili. We have freedom of speech, and sometimes people use that freedom to criticize our country—because they want to make it better. Better is not letting special food for malnourished children, not to mention salves for river blindness and medicines for malaria go bad because the entity that worked to provide them was shut down four months ago. Is that patriotic?

Jesus told us to pay our taxes. St. Paul told us to respect our government. But what they talked about far more than that was giving to others, taking care of others, realizing that we are the same in God's eyes. Jesus mostly spoke of loving one another, even as he has loved us. Both spoke of money as the root of evil. Many people have told their pastors they do not want to hear the "woke" words of Jesus. (And if I never hear that word again, it will be too soon, since it was once a word that meant "empathy" but now is a slur.)

I look forward to celebrating the Fourth of July,

and I will pray the prayer above. We really have no plans, but we will enjoy the day. Have a good day celebrating this country you love but remember these words from the Prayer of the Day:

"Give to all our people the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things, give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples."

In Christ,
Pastor Laura

In Christian Sympathy

Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Don W. Rutherford, 83, who died suddenly on his farm of a heart attack on Friday, May 30. Funeral services were held Wednesday, June 4, here at Peace, with Pastor Laura Shreffler officiating. Burial was in Peace Lutheran Cemetery. We keep in prayer his wife of 55 years, Martha Rutherford; children Abbe Copple, Blake Rutherford (fiancee Beth Fetters), and Jody (Stephen) Harner; grandson Patrick (Maiya) Copple; sister-in-law Joan Yockey; and brother-in-law Ronald Lee Yockey; as well as several nieces nephews, friends, and lifelong best friend, Donald Thomas. Memorial contributions may be made to Peace Lutheran Church, or the Brown County 4-H Committee, 325 W. State St., Bldg. B, Georgetown, OH 45121.

In Christian Sympathy

Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Ben Endsley, who took his life. Ben is the oldest son of Cindy and Bob Verville. Please keep them and the rest of Bob's family in prayer.

Independence Day

We will celebrate our country's independence from Great Britain on Friday, July 4. Make this not only a day of celebration for our freedoms but a day of prayer that we continue to thank God for those freedoms and that we do not let them go. We will celebrate on Sunday, July 6, with patriotic songs and liturgy during the worship service. Come and celebrate with us. You are encouraged to wear red, white, and blue!



Dorcas Circle

Dorcas Circle will meet at 7:00 p.m. Monday, July 14, in Frey Hall. Following devotions, President Barbara Fowler will lead the business meeting. We will decide on a speaker for our open meeting on August 11.

Pastor Laura will lead Lesson Four, "Getting Along with Others," from Max Lucado's *Life Lessons from Acts*. We can always use a Bible study on getting along with others! As the number of new Christians grew, some complaining began. The disciples and the others found a way to share the burden of feeding others both literally and figuratively. We will also be introduced to the deacon Stephen, who was to become the first Christian martyr.

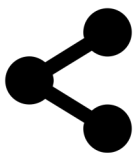
All women of Peace are invited to join us!

Dorcas Circle Projects

Dorcas Circle continues to have special projects on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. They will collect non-perishable food items for the Little Cross-Lit Pantry on Sunday, July 13. Please place the items with the storage tubs under the coat rack. On Sunday, July 27, they will collect items for the Adams County Homeless Shelter, including kitchen items and non-perishable food for the Agape Interfaith Pantry located at Sardinia Hope Church. Items may be put in the drawers marked Agape Pantry and Adams County Homeless Shelter in the large wood cupboard in the Access entrance.

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



Christmas in July

The Sunday School Board invites everyone to join them once again in showering the kids at Wilson's Children's Home in West Union with some great gifts. Winter goodies were greatly appreciated in December, but raising a child is not just a once-a-year job. We will collect items the whole month of July. Look for the poster and tree collection point in the foyer of the Access entrance. Currently the home is caring for 14 children - 11 boys and 3 girls - ranging in age from 14 to 18, so gifting should be age appropriate.

Possible gift ideas:

- ☐ Backpacks
- ☐ School Supplies
- ☐ Summer Pajamas (boys: men's L or XL; girls: women's M or L)
- ☐ Socks (Size 9-11 men's or women's - greatly needed)
- ☐ Underwear (Men's L or XL; Women's, Size 7, - also greatly needed)
- ☐ Cosmetics (makeup, nail polish, etc.)
- ☐ Playing Cards or Games (like UNO, etc.)
- ☐ Blank Canvas, Paints, and Paint Brushes
- ☐ Craft Kits
- ☐ Diamond and Rock Art
- ☐ Monetary gifts are also appreciated. They report that their largest expenses are sports fees that range from \$150 to \$200 per participant per sport.

Thank you for your support!

Summer Lunches

Peace, along with the five other Agape-member churches in Sardinia and Arnheim, will continue to pack and distribute Summer Lunches for at-risk children and seniors through August 8. We pack lunches at 6:30 p.m. each Thursday, and we meet at 11:30 a.m. on Fridays to deliver the lunches throughout the Sardinia area. We have a sign-up list on the Access Hall table if you would like to help pack lunches, drive or help deliver lunches.

Because of the holiday, we will not be packing lunches on Thursday, July 3, or delivering on the Fourth of July.



Bible Study Group

Grace and the older LYO members, Addy, Kylie, and Isabelle, are meeting for a weekly Bible study throughout the summer. We hope that this journey helps them to further connect with God and deepen their faith. Many thanks to Grace for leading this effort! This is such a special group of girls!



Allison Eide Concert

On May 16, the older LYO members traveled to Camp Lebanon for an Allison Eide concert. They first met Allison at Quake in 2023 and were excited to learn that she was coming back to the area.



Allison's message through her music is about the importance of mental health. She's a great role model and we recommend checking out her music!

Courtyard Cleanup

A few members of the LYO gathered on the church clean-up day to help spruce up the courtyard. There is more work to be done - it's a work in progress!

Keep an eye out for further updates, and swing by to check out the rock art!



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

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Addison Kay Bundy and Isabelle Ann Phillips, who were brought into full adult membership of Peace Lutheran Church through Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation on the Day of Pentecost, June 8. Addison and Isabelle affirmed the vows their parents made for them at their baptisms in 2011.



Addy is the daughter of Michael Bundy and Vanessa Bundy, and her Peace grandparents are Bob and Kay Bundy. Addy will be a sophomore at Eastern High School, where she takes part in cheerleading and plays clarinet in marching band. She is also involved in 4-H.

Isabelle is the daughter of Travis and Robyn Phillips, and her Peace grandparents are Cheryl Phillips and the late Ed Phillips. Isabelle will be a freshman at Georgetown High School. She is involved in playing volleyball and loves to read.

Both girls are very involved in the LYO and they served as lectors during the Day of Pentecost worship service. Addy volunteers as a communion assistant, and Isabelle works with her dad on the sound board and computer each Sunday.

Please keep them in prayer.

Graduates Moving On

On June 22, we recognized our college graduates:

Olivia Waits graduated from Miami University in December 2024. Olivia will attend the University of Kentucky Medical School on the Northern Kentucky University campus.

Grace Humble graduated from Ohio University in May. Grace will attend Northern Kentucky University as well, studying for her Master of Social Work degree.

Grace Ralston graduated from Wittenberg University in May. Grace hopes to secure a job in Cincinnati in cancer research for a couple years before she goes to graduate school.

Aiden Fowler graduated from Big Sandy Community College.

Congratulations to all of them. We hope to have a short sending liturgy for Grace and Olivia in July, either before or just after they move to their new apartment. We look forward to welcoming all four of our graduates back to Peace any time.



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 — May 4, 2025

Present: Steve Bundy, Cheryl Phillips, Connie Perry, Linda Sue Stephan, Marion Ralston, Joan Yockey, Pastor Laura Shreffler, Elizabeth Waits, Zac Taylor, Dorothy Carrington, Sue Bohrer

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

Dorothy Carrington led devotions.

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

Pastor Laura Shreffler read the pastor's report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Church Property—Church Mutual Insurance paperwork was submitted. Insurance rates have gone up, so we are soliciting quotes from other insurance agencies to determine the best option going forward.

Challenger electric panel has been replaced as requested by Church Mutual Insurance. Two receptacles were installed for the refrigerators used for flowers. Choir room light switches were also repaired. The work was completed by Shafer HVAC/Electric, and the total cost was \$2573.

Fire Extinguishers were inspected and certified by Adamson Fire Protection. Three of the 5-pound extinguishers needed to be serviced and or replaced. Adamson to supply a quote for this service.

Continued issues with the new boiler operating over pressure again.

State of Ohio Elevator Inspection was conducted and deficiencies noted to include a lack of a fire extinguisher in the equipment room and a possible hydraulic oil leak. Tri-State Elevator was contacted to investigate the possible Hydraulic oil leak, and Adamson hung a new fire extinguisher in the equipment room. The elevator is currently safe to operate.

George and Barbara worked on the kitchen sink and discovered the p-trap was 95% clogged with grease. The pipe was corroded and a pipe split when the trap was removed. It was patched enough for the Taste of Arnheim. On May 5th a very reasonably priced plumber will repair the sink and replace the leaking faucet.

Basement Water Infiltration: The sump pump was inspected, and it is possible the sump float was hung up. George inspected the gutters above the affected area and one downspout was clogged with pine needles, which was cleaned at that time.

Bell Tower: A crew was scheduled to go into the tower and fix the issue on 4/28/25. George and Barbara were the only ones that were present. George attempted to climb up to the tower to make repair, but was unsuccessful. A visual inspection indicated that the bell was hung up horizontally as before and will have to be manually freed. George will attempt to schedule a crew for 5/6/25.

Cemetery—We received 4th Quote for tree removal from Sherdec Tree Services LLC for \$13,160.00. This quote includes removal of the 5 trees and all associated debris. It also includes stump removal. Cemetery committee finds A-1 Tree Care to be the most favorable bid.

Evangelism—Thank you to everyone who came out to the Taste of Arnheim.

Bad news, Evangelism will not be having a church yard sale this year, we were unable to come up with a date for the event.

Summer Lunch has a special meeting on 5/5/25 to discuss future of program due to another lunch program being offered in our area.

The Back-to-School Backpack & Shoe Giveaway will be held on 7/19/25 & 7/23/25 at the Sardinia Church of Christ.

We will be ordering business cards for the church.

Scholarship—Two Scholarships will be awarded.

Youth & Family—LYO meeting on May 18th. Game night on May 30th.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Linda Sue Stephan made a motion to accept the A-1 Tree Care quote for tree removal in the cemetery and Marion Ralston seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Pastor Laura has not talked with All Funeral Services at this time; she will do this and then work with Cemetery Committee.

The clean-up day is May 17th at 9:00.

NEW BUSINESS

We have 2 church signs that are down, and one needs repaired. The other one just needs to be put back up.

Pastor Laura will be off May 20-22 to go North to clean out mother in-law's house.

Marion Ralston brought up that the gazebo needs cleaned up. This is to be worked on during clean-up days.

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

Respectfully submitted by Natalie Vogel.

July 2025

[illegible]

The Beacon

Peace Lutheran Church, Arnheim, Ohio

July 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



Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Georgetown, OH 45121
Permit #22

Peace Lutheran Church
10581 Day Hill-Arnheim Road
Georgetown, OH 45121