

The Beacon

September, 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



LYO Cookout and Bake Sale

On September 20, the LYO will host a cookout/bake sale fundraiser after church. Weather permitting, this will be held outside in the freshened-up gazebo.

Hot-dogs, hamburgers, chips, drinks, and baked goods will be available for a donation. The group has some activities coming up and needs to raise some extra funds. All are invited to join us after church for lunch, fellowship, and to support the kids!



Backpack Blessings

"Live by the Spirit" was the theme of our annual Backpack Blessings held on Aug. 9 at both services. "Live by the Spirit" is an exhortation from St. Paul in Galatians 5:25. The Backpack Blessings Scripture for this year is "Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ" -- Ephesians 4:32.

Our Backpack Blessing event lets all students—from younger students to teens—know that they are going to return to school surrounded by God's promises and the love of their families and other caring adults. We look forward to blessing and surrounding our young people with our love throughout their time in school.

Dorcas Circle

Dorcas Circle will meet at 7:00 p.m. Monday, Sept. 14, in Frey Hall. We will discuss when we will reschedule our open meeting with Ashlie Webster from Dragonfly Village, the Senior Recognition Sunday worship service and carry-in lunch on Sunday, Oct. 11, the annual Thankoffering Service in November, Agape Holiday Boxes, and other holiday discussions.

Following the business meeting, Jennifer Wagner will lead the first lesson of our new Bible Study, Max Lucado's Life Lessons from Psalms. Lesson One is "The Path of Righteousness," which focuses on Psalm 1 and Psalm 2. The lesson can be found on pp. 1-8. Please also read the two preceding chapters: "How to Study the Bible," pp. v-viii, and "Introduction to the Book of Psalms," pp. ix-xi.



The Cross-Lit Church - Faith, Hope and Love

Remember in Prayer

Tammy Aliff
 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
 Roxanne Malone

Cynthia Marks
 Jeremy McFarland
 Joe McFarland
 Yolanda Meeker
 Debbie Mitchell
 Estel Newberry
 Dorothy Orr
 John Pack
 Anna Lou Ralston
 Brenda Reed
 Tom Reifenberger
 Karla Ritchie
 Connie Sawyers
 Nicki Seip
 Pastor Ron Shreffler
 Danny Stephens
 Paula Taylor
 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 Wager - 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

Richard Stephan (21-Sep)
 6183 Tracy Rd
 Sardinia, OH 45171

Marlene Kress (22-Sep)
 11443 Purdy Rd
 Sardinia, OH 45171

Betty Gelter (27-Sep)
 63 Wahl St
 Georgetown, OH 45121

Congratulations

Congratulations to Ben and Anja Shelton on the birth of a daughter, Kennedy Elisabeth, on Friday, Aug. 14, at Christ Hospital in Cincinnati. Kennedy weighed 6 lbs. 14 oz. and was 19 inches long. She was welcomed by big sister Abigail, 2. Please continue to keep this family in prayer. Kelly and Dave Warren are the proud grandparents, and Hallie Benjamine is the proud great-grandmother.

Thank you

I would like to thank the church for the beautiful flowers for my Birthday and also to Dena for delivering them and our nice visit. It was all very much appreciated. Thank You.
Mary Taylor

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.

**Give us strength to love each other,
every sister, every brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.**

**Healer of our every ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow."**

"Healer of Our Every Ill,"
v. 3 and refrain, WOV #738

Dear Friends,

I had not really noticed the anniversary until I saw previews of programs coming up on the 25th anniversary of the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the plane crash in Pennsylvania. How can it be 25 years? On the previews, the interviewers were asking individuals, "How did this change your life? What do you remember?"

I had a pastors' meeting in Versailles that morning, but first, I needed to return some books to the library that I had been using for background on life during Martin Luther's time. It was still early morning, when I dropped the books off, only to find the librarians glued to a television. "Someone crashed a jet into the North Tower at the World Trade Center," one of the librarians filled me in. At that point, we thought it was an accident. Only one tower had been struck. But people were starting to jump. This meant more to me. I spent a year as a "New Yorker" in 1987-88. I loved my adopted city. How many times did I take visiting friends—not to mention my parents—up to the top of the World Trade Center?

I moved on to the church where the meeting was to be held. The secretary was watching her television, and the pastors were gathered around. By the time I got there, another jet had crashed into the South Tower. Later we watched the towers collapse. It was surreal. We all went back to our churches. I was so anxious to pick up my 7-year-old from school, but parents had received a phone call not to pick up our children. The school also was not going to tell the elementary-aged children what had happened. They needed that information to come from us. I was relieved when Rebecca finally got off the bus, and I remember sitting on the couch with her, but I do not remember what I said. The next day, on the news, I saw a church service where the congregation

From the Pastor



was singing the above song, "Healer of Our Every Ill." The third verse has always filled me with longing: "Give us strength to love each other, every sister, every brother." The longing has only grown as the years have passed.

But I remember the good times, the times we reached out to each other. I remember when pastors and imams and rabbis and heads of other religions worshiped together in New York City. I remember a bishop of another branch of the Lutheran Church censuring a synod bishop who had worshiped at that time because he should not have been worshiping with outsiders. So we drew together, but it was not a good time for everyone. If you were a Muslim, even as you grieved for what had happened, you had a price on your head. A Sikh was nearly beaten to death in Detroit. Sikhs are not Muslim, but they do wear turbans. I remember an editorial cartoon with Jesus weeping as he tried to gather those who had leaped from the towers into his arms. I remember Jerry Falwell and others saying that the United States had deserved this due to feminists, gay and lesbian people, and other "sinners." Then I remember the Rev. Billy Graham's sermon at The National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. He also spoke of how Jesus wept as he gathered into his arms those who had died—almost 3,000. Billy Graham did not accuse. Billy Graham gave us grace to grieve.

But there was a story I didn't know about until Donna Mahanes gave me the book "The Day the World Came to Town, 9/11 in Gander,

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Newfoundland" for Christmas. This also spawned a musical, "Come from Away," which I have wanted to see. I think it will be performed in Cincinnati in various venues, but not at a time I can go. On Sept. 11, 2001, 38



planes were ordered to land unexpectedly at Gander International Airport when U.S. airspace was closed. Nearly 7,000 displaced travelers arrived in a town that had a population of only about 9,000. Our Canadian cousins opened their homes, schools, and churches to feed, house, and comfort the strangers until U.S. airspace reopened a few days later. They ate together, they square-danced together, they grieved together. And afterward, despite the lies you might have heard recently about Canada not having a military, they do indeed, and 70,000 troops fought with Americans in Afghanistan and later in Iraq. And thousands of Canadian troops died. Because Canada and the United States were allies who would always fight for each other, not against each other.

So if you can attend a performance of "Come from Away," please do so. Read "The Day the World Came to Town." If I could find my copy in my stack of books, I would loan it. Jim DeFede is the author. And this Sept. 11, remember when we all grieved our country together, when we loved each other, "every sister, every brother," and when strangers in another country would take us in.

In Christ,
Pastor Laura

Pastor On Vacation

Pastor Laura and Pastor Ron will be on vacation from Wednesday, Sept. 23, through Tuesday, Sept. 29. The Shrefflers will travel to West Virginia to celebrate their granddaughter's third birthday. Pastor Laura will be back in the office on Wednesday, Sept. 30. Pastor Jennell Rue is tentatively scheduled to be the supply pastor that day, depending on her father's health.

In Christian Sympathy

- ✠ Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Dana J. Voight, who died on Monday, Aug. 10, after an extended illness. Dana was the son-in-law of Roger Nehus. Please keep in prayer his wife Jo Lene (Jo); brother Steven Voight, stepbrothers Chuck (Claire) and Joseph (Terry) Burns, stepsons Tim (Mindy) and Joshua (Emilee) Rice, grandchildren Trey, Mason, Isabella, and Noah Rice, his sister-in-law Joyce "Butchie" Heaton, as well as Roger and Hallie. A Celebration of Life was held Saturday, Aug. 29, at Huffman United Methodist Church in Birmingham, AL. Donations may be made to the Huffman United Methodist Church Trustees or the Brown County Ohio Humane Society.
- ✠ Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Brittany Brown, who died Sunday, Aug. 23, after a long illness. Brittany was the wife of William Brown, a former member at Peace, and the daughter-in-law of Sandy and the late Gary Brown, long-time members here. Please also keep in prayer Brittany's daughter, Winifred; stepson, Brody; and all Brittany's family and friends.

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 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, instant mashed potatoes, canned pasta and chili, box dinners and sides, granola and protein bars, cereal and oatmeal packets, bottled water and manual can openers.

The registration is \$55 and can be paid the day of the event. Hotel rooms are available in West Chester for Friday, Oct. 16, but the discount ends on Tuesday, Sept. 1. If you want more information or a registration form, Pastor Laura can print that out for you.

Back-to-School Giveaway

A big thank you to all of you who contributed to the Giveaway and to all who volunteered. We thank the Evangelism Team: Susan Taylor, Elizabeth Waits, Joan Yockey, Lisa Jewell, and Linda Sue Stephan for putting this together, with special thanks to Susan and Elizabeth. Thanks to everyone who helped transfer items from Peace to Sardinia on Friday and to everyone who set up on Friday and volunteered on Saturday. This is a valuable service for our families in Brown County.





Upcoming LYO Events

There are several LYO events coming up through the end of the year. Be on the lookout and watch the Beacon and bulletins!

Sep. 6..... LYO will work on the gazebo

Sep. 20..... LYO cookout/bake sale fundraiser
(at the gazebo, weather permitting)

Oct. 11..... Harvest Party

Oct. 16-17 .. LYO will be at the Youth Revival
held at the Sardinia Church of Christ

Oct. 25..... Corn Maze trip (weather-permitting)

Nov. 13 Lock-in at the church

Nov. 15..... Delivering Holiday Meal Boxes

Dec. 4 Christmas Movie Night

Dec. 13 Christmas Caroling

Jan. 8-10 LYO will be at Quake in Eastgate

LYO News

The LYO met on August 23 for a business/ planning meeting (and pizza). The agenda was full and a lot was accomplished. LYO welcomes anyone in the congregation from third grade through high school. LYO welcomes friends as well. If you have any questions, see Natalie Vogel.



The Gazebo is Getting a Refresh!

On September 6, the LYO will meet to complete the gazebo work (as long as the weather cooperates). We'll meet for lunch after the second service and then get to work.

Peace Lutheran Communications	
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Pastor Laura Shreffler	937-564-0082 (cell), 937-446-9308 (home) trinitytwo13@gmail.com
Zach Taylor, President	937-515-7468

Pelican Makeover

When she took on the makeover job for the bird she calls Pelican Pete, Marjorie Muller says Pete was on life support, shedding fiberglass. She told Pastor Laura that Pete needed major surgery. Pelican Pete is now recovered and looking better than ever in fresh white and orange paint.

The pelican is back at its post in front of the Access entrance. Thank you, Marge!



Committee Meetings

The Worship & Music Committee and the Evangelism Committee will each meet at 7:00 p.m. Monday, Sept. 21. The Evangelism Committee changed its meeting due to Opening Day at the Brown County Fair on Monday, Sept. 28. The Worship & Music Committee will meet in Frey Hall. The Evangelism Committee will meet in the old council room downstairs.

Recovery Friendly Congregations

Forming Recovery-Friendly Congregations: A Symposium for Faith Communities, will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, at Crossroads Eastside, in Eastgate next to Jungle Jim's. On Our Way Home is hosting the event, bringing together faith leaders and congregations to explore practical ways to support recovery and create welcoming, compassionate communities. Lunch will be provided. A recovery-friendly congregation creates a safe, welcoming, and stigma-free environment for individuals and families impacted by substance use, mental health challenges, grief, and trauma. The keynote speaker is Matthew Johnson, DMin, the director of Faith-Based Initiatives at Fletcher Group. Pastor Laura will attend, if you want a ride.



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 — July 12, 2026

Present: Dorothy Carrington, George Fowler, Terry Holland, Tricia McClain, Cheryl Phillips, Marion Ralston, Pastor Laura Shreffler, Dan Wagel, Joan Yockey

Due to the president being absent, Marion Ralston, called the meeting to order and read the mission statement.

Sue Bohrer led devotions.

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

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

Pastor's report was read.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Church Property—Bill Coliver generously donated his time and labor to repair the church window.

He will be cleaning the church gutters for an ongoing affordable price.

The new signs were picked up, and the updated Evangelical logo was added.

The kitchen ceiling was primed and will be painted at a later date.

Finance & Investment—Donna Wernz donated \$55,500.00 to the church.

George made a motion to transfer \$45,000.00 of the donation to the Thrivent account, with the remaining balance to remain in the general checking account. Cheryl Phillips seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Dorothy made a motion to continue using Suburban Propane, provided this year's rates are comparable to last year's rates. George seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Evangelism—Annual Back-to-School Giveaway with the Sardinia Church of Christ from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday, July 25, and from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 29th.

Worship & Music—July 5th the 250th anniversary church service was held, and there were 60 + members in attendance.

Marion made a motion to accept the committee reports and Dorothy seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Nikki wanted to paint the gate for the 100th anniversary of the cemetery. Will discuss at a later date about possibly getting the gate painted.

All church signs might need to be replaced at a later date.

A draft will be presented at the next Council meeting outlining the current number of Council members and possibly decreasing the number of Council members in the future.

Tricia made a motion to appoint Pastor Laura as the Trustee for the Sardinia Agape Council and Donna Mahanes as the alternate representative to the Board. Joan seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

The Council discussed passing the collection plate during services when new members or visitors are present so they can recognize the opportunity to donate. Also discussed passing of the peace by shaking hands. At this time, the council declined this due to the recent outbreak of Cyclospora infections. This will be revisited at a later date.

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

The next council meeting will take place on 8/9/2026.

Respectfully submitted by Tricia McClain.



Southern Ohio Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Council President and VP Advanced Boot Camp

Registration is open for the Council President and Vice-President Advanced Bootcamp, to be held in person from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, at the Southern Ohio Synod Office. Join Pastor Bob Abrams and members of the Southern Ohio Synod Congregational Resource Team to learn more about how to faithfully lead your congregations, especially when things aren't easy. This event is open to all current Congregational Council Presidents and Vice-Presidents, whether or not you have attended the regular bootcamp session. The cost is \$20 per person, which the church will pay. Lunch is included. If you are interested, let Pastor Laura know, and she will register you.

September 2026

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The Beacon

Peace Lutheran Church, Arnheim, Ohio

September, 2026

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

Sunday Schedule

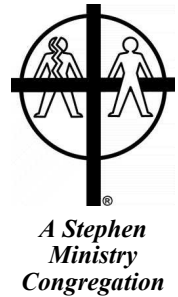
- 8:30 a.m. Praise Worship Service
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum
- 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

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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