



Peace Lutheran Church Tidings of Peace

April 2021

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We have a telescope. We bought it many years ago. We bought it because we thought we liked astronomy. The idea of being out on a nice comfortable night gazing up at some awesome other-worldly comet, planet, or supernova is very appealing. However, the fact is, we have very seldom used our telescope. When we have, it has been less fun than we thought it would be. The night tends to be cold or infested with mosquitoes. It is hard to get the telescope focused properly and the amazing astronomical phenomenon ends up looking like a fuzzy dot. I like the idea of astronomy, but the real thing is underwhelming for me.

That is not true for others. I have met people who are really into star gazing. They bounce up and down and tell you the

amazing things they have seen, "That fuzzy dot is only visible from earth once every 2500 years and the last time, it was only visible from Mt.

Midlovnwear in Neverheardistan! We are privileged to see it." People like that exist. Their excitement is contagious. They are the reason that we bought a telescope.

I think there are a lot of people who like the idea of church. The idea of gathering with a group of loving companions to be inspired through words and music sounds wonderful. Who wouldn't want to be connected and receive grace from the creator of the universe?

However, when we arrive and the music is not so inspiring, the people are less than loving, and the sermon seems irrelevant to our lives, we are a bit

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Tidings of Peace

*The Official Newsletter
of Peace@Monroe*

We hope you find our newsletter to be both informative and insightful with interesting news and notes on life together as God's people. If you have suggestions for the newsletter or would like to submit an article for publication, we'd love to hear from you.

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Pastor

Rebeca Castro
Church Office Administrator
& Newsletter Editor

Peace@Monroe

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underwhelmed. Why should we risk COVID, leave our comfortable homes and spend "our" free time to be underwhelmed?

Yet, there are some of us who are excited about church. We bounce up and down and tell of the wonders of knowing Jesus and having him in our lives. So, what is the difference? Why are some people excited to join worship and others not so much?

We could put it down to the mysterious work of the Holy Spirit and leave it there. When God gets ahold of you, you can't help but be excited. That is true, but I think there is more to it. We get excited about the things we invest in. Some people love astronomy because they have invested time and effort in learning about astronomy. Someone somewhere piqued their interest, and they did more than buy a telescope. They invested their life in trying to figure out the stars. The more they invested, the more fascinated they became with their hobby. The same principle is true for church. Sometimes people go to church because they feel they should but really don't put their hearts into it. They don't invest and they don't get much out of their experience. I shouldn't say, "they". I should say, "me". I sometimes do not invest in my faith walk, and I find that at those times, I do not get much out of it. But when we do invest our time and effort in worship, in service, in

study and in fellowship, we are blessed with a growing faith. We become excited about our church and that excitement is contagious.

Please don't get me wrong. I am not saying that your faith is dependent on what you do. Your faith is a gift that God has given you when you were baptized and when you heard the Good News of Jesus. However, if we set our faith on a shelf and don't use it, it will atrophy. God will remain faithful, but we will not know the full blessings of what we have in Christ unless we invest that faith. The bible says it this way, "The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously." (2 Corinthians 9:6) As Jesus followers, let's sow generously by worshipping together, studying together, serving together, and encouraging each other. As we do that, we will reap the blessings that God has for us!



***Engage God
Each Other ~ The World***



One Parish One Prisoner

Peace Lutheran Church has been blessed to be invited to walk along side Jonathan and his wife, Angelie, as Jonathan re-enters society after a time in prison. Jonathan has an incredible story of healing. He now is working with others that are trying to free themselves from gang connections in the prison. We are honored to walk alongside of him.

Our whole congregation will be praying for Jonathan and Angelie. We have a team of people who are committed to being the hand of the congregation and get to know Jonathan and Angelie more deeply. The team is John Gose, Shelley Wallace, Sheryl Becker, Todd Roeske and two members from our Latino brothers and sisters, Heriberto Palapa and Pastor Ignacio Castro.

Our team is meeting regularly to go through learning modules to help us best understand how we can love and walk alongside our new friend. We are also regularly writing letters and getting to know Jonathan and his story. For now, the wider congregation will not get to know much of Jonathan's story. We are in the process of getting to know Jonathan and his wife and do not want to take advantage of the trust we are building. In time, Jonathan and/or Angelie may want to share more of their story with all of us.

One special prayer request is that Jonathan will be going to an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) unit upon release from prison this Fall. Pray that the Lord will help Jonathan navigate this process. If you have questions please feel free to talk to Todd or other members of the OPOP Team.



Chitina VBS

This Summer, we will be sending a team to Chitina, Alaska to provide a VBS for a small community that has not had a VBS since 2019.

Five members of the congregation (Sheryl Becker, Chloe Groeneveld, Todd, Kim and Amani Roeske) will be traveling from July 13 to 24th. Last year, we intended on sending a team but the COVID Pandemic changed our plans.

Please keep the Chitina VBS team in your prayers.

Worship ~ Study ~ Commune ~ Serve

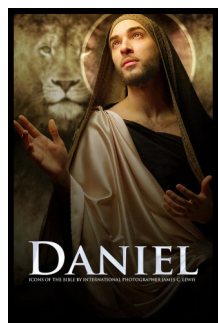


Worship **Sundays at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.**

Bring your mask.
Be sure you're healthy. Temperatures are taken.
Bring the joy of the Lord. It's great to be together.
*"This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it."
Psalm 118:24*

Worship (online and on the phone) **Sundays at 10:00 a.m.**

Our services are also recorded.
Go to **YouTube: Peace Lutheran Church**
or **Facebook: Peace Church Monroe.**
You can also call in (602-580-9478). Your access code is 5100526#.
Weekly bulletins are available on our website (peacechurchmonroe.org).
Children's messages are available, too. Share with your friends and family.

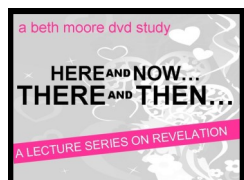
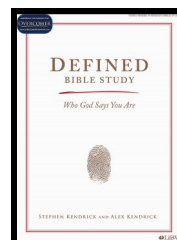


Adult Study **The Old Testament Book of Daniel** **Sundays at 9:15 a.m.**

We are studying Daniel in preparation for our study of Revelation.
Join us Sunday mornings!

"Defined" Bible Study **Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.**

All are invited!
We were created to be known and loved by God,
and together we can discover all God has called us to be.



Women's Bible Study **Mondays at 6:30 p.m.**

Join Cara Fleming for Beth Moore's study, Here and Now.
Books are just \$10.

Leadership Team Highlights

May 2021

Participating on the Leadership Team are Brad Feilberg, John Gose, Kim Green, Michael Mates, Deanna Nowadnick, and Shelley Wallace. Also attending our calls are Pastor Todd and Linda Herman, our preschool director.

- **COVID Response as a Church and School**

We are in Phase 3 in Snohomish County and allowed to reconfigure sanctuary for more people. The pulpit has also been moved in order to allow additional singers at the front—because now we can sing! Pastor Todd has continued to follow up with members not able to worship with us on Sundays. Three of our young people are also taking confirmation studies.

- **Easter Celebration**

We were delighted to be able to worship with our Hispanic church friends at a special outdoor service. The weather was tolerable and the service was a joy-filled celebration in both English and Spanish. The children participated in special activities, including an egg hunt. We had lots of fun! He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

- **Leadership Team Visioning Workshop**

In May the Leadership Team will have a socially distant retreat in order to have a “bigger” discussion about how we engage with God, engage with each other, and engage with the world. Now that some of the COVID restrictions are behind us, we want to be sure to follow God’s Spirit in mission and ministries opportunities before us. We’re excited by the possibilities.

- **Parsonage Listening Sessions**

On three successive Sundays in June, the 13th, 20th, and 27th, we will look more closely at our study team’s report regarding the parsonage. Their report included five options: 1) keeping parsonage arrangement as is; 2) keeping the parsonage and paying a special home ownership “reserve equity” benefit to pastor; 3) keeping the parsonage for other ministries and paying housing allowance to pastor to rent or purchase his own home; 4) renting the parsonage and paying housing allowance to pastor to rent or purchase his own home; and 5) selling parsonage and paying housing allowance to pastor to rent or purchase his own home. Study team provided advantages and disadvantages to each. You’re invited to come and help us think through how best to honor the home and provide for our pastor.

Financial News

Special Offerings

Fiscal YTD

Building "10-for-10"	\$1030
Thrivent Choice	\$ 349
Total	\$1379

Special Gifts

Fiscal YTD

Advertising	\$ 60
Building	
Loan Paydown	\$3165
Endowment	\$ 379
Memorials	\$1863
Missions	
Alaska	\$ 100
Asia	\$1000
Africa (Shauen Trump)	\$ 115
Take the Next Step	\$ 775
PPP Grant	\$3688
Total	\$11,145

**Would you like
to give your offerings
online?**

Just go to [https://
give.cornerstone.cc/
peacemonroe](https://give.cornerstone.cc/peacemonroe)
or access the link
at peacemonroe.org.

It's easy!



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TREASURER'S REPORT

*Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,
always giving thanks to God the Father for everything,
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Ephesians 5:19b-20

Given March 2021	\$ 19,692
Given Fiscal YTD (August 2020-March 2021)	\$132,132

2020-21 Budget (approved July 2020)

Foundation	\$195,707
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Salary and Benefits

Administration

Building Loan

Ministries

Reaching Up	\$ 2,400
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Worship

Reaching Out	\$ 21,800
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The World

The Nation

The Region

Reaching In	\$ 6,200
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Education

Spiritual Growth

Fun and Fellowship

Supplies

Total \$226,107

Assets (as of 3/31/2021)

Checking	\$104,762
Savings	\$ 18,886
Endowment	\$ 45,563

Income v. Expenses

Needed in March 2021	\$ 18,842
Given in February 2021	\$ 19,692
Needed Year-to-Date	\$150,736
Given Year-to-Date	\$132,132

Loan Summary

Building Loan (as of 12/07/2020)	\$ 48,311
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Little Doves

Preschool and Kindergarten

Backwards Day! Walking backwards is harder than you think!



Backward shirts and walking backwards. A fun day!



"Painting the fence" with water and wearing our shirts backwards.



Shooting hoops on a sunny day!



We're enrolling for 2021-2022 school year!

Little Doves Preschool and Kindergarten has provided our Monroe community with outstanding early childhood education for over thirty years. Many of our first students have returned as parents, enrolling their own children. What a joy!

Little Doves provides a loving, Christ-centered education that exceeds state requirements for early education and prepares children up to six years of age for educational success throughout their primary school years and beyond. We accept all children.

All necessary enrollment information and materials are available on the school's website:

littledovespreschool.com.

Questions? Contact Linda, our director (360-794-7230).



LUNCH BUNCH

Mon 5/10

11:45 a.m.

Alfy's Pizza: 19121 US-2, Monroe, WA 98272

Grab a friend. Bring your neighbor.
Call Ken and Nancy, if you need a ride (425-308-9984).
(Monday is Senior Day)



Men's Breakfast

Sat 05/08 @ 8:00 a.m.

Denny's: 18824 US-2, Monroe, WA 98272

Bob Johnson: (425-870-0681)



Engaging God

Engaging Each Other ~ Engaging the World



TIDINGS OF PEACE

Peace Lutheran Church

202 Dickinson Street

Monroe, WA 98272

Address Correction Requested

