



Peace Lutheran Church Tidings of Peace

February 2021

In This Issue

**Pastor Todd's
Message**
Front

**Chloe's
Statement
of Faith**
page 3

**Worship and
Study Times**
page 4

Peace Profile
page 5

**Financial
Report**
page 6

School News
page 7

**Mission
Statement**
Back



Building God's House *by Pastor Todd Roeske*

Years ago, when we lived in the Philippines, we decided to build a house. We wanted to build a house that was comfortable enough for us to live in for a long time and yet simple enough that it did not seem ostentatious to our neighbors who thought that a 15' by 20' house with a tin roof was more than just about anyone would need. Kim and I talked and dreamed about what we would need. We decided to use wood and bamboo with a galvanized metal roof. We sketched out our layout with a bedroom for Audrie, one for us and one for the students who lived with us and helped us with daily tasks. We added an indoor bathroom for us and one for the students. We designed a long balcony for entertaining

guests and teaching seminars. Then we found a young architectural student to draw up the design. The next step was to find a carpenter and to gather the materials. I remember one hot tropical day working with 12 Tagakaulo men to dig out by hand a flat spot on the hill where our house would sit. It was hard to imagine that that spot would one day be our home.

There were changes along the way. We had to tweak the plan. One day the lead carpenter came and asked me if he should follow the blueprint as it was drawn. Foolishly, I responded that, of course, he should follow the plan. He nodded and said, "So you want me to put this support beam in the middle of the doorway

continued on Next Page

between the kitchen and your bedroom?” We, wisely, took the carpenter’s advice and changed the plan. We worked for the better part of a year taking our dream and making it into a comfortable 800 square foot home that we would happily live in for the next 7 years. The house was not exactly like our vision, but it was close.

Now we are here with you in Monroe. We are not building a physical house, but we are working with all of you to build this congregation. In many ways it is similar to building a house. First, it starts with a vision. What do we think Peace Lutheran Church will be like in ten years? Where do we believe that God is taking us? The congregation that I see us becoming is a vibrant group of forgiven Jesus followers with varying ages and backgrounds that are engaged together in making a difference for the Kingdom by loving our neighbors here in Monroe, in the wider region of the USA and throughout the world.

Wouldn’t it be great to see each person using their God given talents to reach out in a variety of ways? Some days, as we continue to slog through this COVID-19 pandemic, this vision seems hard to imagine. I feel like

we are digging out a flat spot on a hot tropical hill. Yet, as we move forward, I believe that God will lead us to plan and to work to become that congregation. I am sure that there will be difficulties and some beams that might need to be repositioned, but in the end, we will become the congregation that the Lord is calling us to become. We know that this will happen because, ultimately, it is not we that are responsible for building the congregation. It is the Lord. “You are ... fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God’s household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole building, being put together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you are also being built together for God’s dwelling in the Spirit.” Ephesians 2:19-22

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.

Todd Roeske
Pastor

Rebeca Castro
Church Office Administrator

Deanna Nowadnick
Newsletter Editor

Peace@Monroe

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Reflection Question

***What can I do today to help
move us toward this vision
becoming a reality?***

**Engage God
Engage Each Other
Engage the World**

We rejoice with Chloe Groeneveld!

Chloe was confirmed in December and agreed to share her heartfelt Statement of Faith.



For the past year I had the amazing opportunity to work with Pastor Todd to learn about God's Word and to confirm my belief in him. I've always believed in God and Jesus. I've grown up knowing that God made the earth and that Jesus died for our sins, but I've never truly thought about the why's and how's because in my family I grew up with "That's what we believe."

But now I understand why I believe. I believe because this is what I believe. I know you might be thinking, "Chloe, you just said that twice, one where you didn't really understand why you believe and now when you do?" Well, let me explain. When I was younger, I just took in what we believed as a family, my overall belief hasn't changed but my clarity of believing in God has. It's become more clear to me. This is now why I say that I believe because this is what I believe. I as in my own person, mind, and heart believe what we as a family believe.

Pastor Todd asked me to choose a Bible verse that will be my confirmation verse. I decided on John 13:7: "Jesus replied '**You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.**'" As I share the following with you I would like to ask you to think about his verse.

I believe that I as a human sin, even sins I am not aware of because I believe in the Ten Commandments and that Jesus died on that cross for us and our sins. I believe that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament because I believe the word of Christ: Take, eat, this is My body; drink of it all of you, this is My blood (Matthew 26: 26-28). I believe that there is only one God, but three persons because I believe in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe in Baptism, because I believe in Christ our Lord's words "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16).

You may all be wondering how these tie to the verse I picked, or maybe some of you have an idea. When I began this confirmation journey a year ago, there were a lot of things I had questions about, or I questioned in my faith. For example, why was I baptized? When I was younger, I did not understand, but later—when is now, I understand because God calls me to be his. I know I sin, so how can I have everlasting life? Well, God gave his only Son to the world to die for our sins. And when he died for our sins, he gave us his blood and body. The body as the remembrance of him and his blood is the new covenant and our eternal life. I believe God has a plan for each and everyone of us. Our one true God made us, forgives, us for our sins, and gives us everlasting life. Even when times get tough or when you question your faith in him, just remember John 13:7.

As I conclude today, there are still many things that I can't wrap my head around in my life, but I have faith. I know God will keep leading me in the right direction and in God's time I will understand.

Worship ~ Study ~ Commune ~ Serve



Worship

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

Bring your mask.

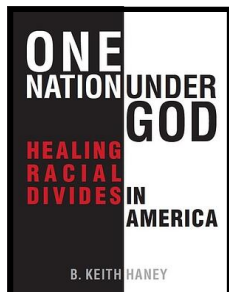
Be sure you're healthy. Temperatures are taken.
Bring the joy of the Lord. It's great to be together.

*"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 "One Nation under God: Healing Racial Divides in America" Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

Contact the church office, if you'd like to participate.
We're meeting at church between services. Bring your mask.

Ash Wednesday Wednesday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m.

We begin our journey to the cross with a special worship service
and COVID-safe imposition of ashes.

We'll continue through Lent with a devotional video each week.



Women's Bible Study Mondays through 2/8/2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Cara will be concluding their study of "Twelve Women of the Bible."



Peace Profiles: Deanna Nowadnick by Michael Mates

Peace Lutheran has a deep bench when it comes to lay leadership. The first player we'll write about (because she volunteered first) is Deanna Nowadnick, who with her husband Kurt has worshiped at Peace since Autumn 1983. (We expect a 40-year commemorative cake in 2023!)

During those nearly 40 years, Deanna has practiced ministry inside and outside the church. Both callings have consisted of big-picture issues and how they work out at the down-to-earth level.

For instance, she is a Registered Investment Advisor with The Planner's Edge, who does more with practically implementing investment choices than with big-picture investment advice.

She has written two books with a third in the works, about the family, "Signs of Life," and the devotional life. She causes these subjects to speak to the daily practicalities of life, and then relates her "driving mishaps" and other "antics and vulnerabilities" back to the more important journey with God who is with us through the "Red Sea of life."

On Friday mornings at 8.00, she squeezes the issues of eternity into 15 minutes on a Facebook -based "Morning WOLK [Words of Loving Kindness] with God," and "shares her connections."

At the twice-monthly Leadership Team meeting (on Zoom, of course), she guides discussions on budgets, worship in a time of plague and chimney repairs at the parsonage, while ensuring that decisions make sense and can be implemented practically. On Sunday morning, she'll do some practical implementing herself, taking temperatures and running service electronics as needed.

And, remarkably, all this labor of love is done with smiles and laughter, a sure sign that the joy of the Lord is her strength.

Prologue

Signs in Life: Finding Direction in Our Travels with God

by Deanna Nowadnick

THIS WAY

"If you're going to ticket me,
then ticket me!"

I scrambled out of the car, slammed the door, and kicked the rear tire. Squinting into the harsh glare of a flashlight, my first words were louder than necessary, "If you're going to ticket me, then ticket me! I just want to get home." Not giving the police officer a chance to respond, I continued, still annoyed, still defiantly frustrated, "I'm tired. Really—I just want to get home!"

"And I just need you to slow down, ma'am. I actually stopped you, because I really just needed you to slow down and stop—at the sign back there. You're in a school zone. It's dark. There's traffic."

The officer was right. Traveling home from the gym, I'd failed to stop at a busy corner. Distracted by a young mother's ever present to-do list, I'd rolled through an intersection, the middle school on my left, a railroad crossing on my right. Fortunately a man with a badge had cared enough to give me a much deserved warning and an undeniable lesson: road signs are an important part of safe travel...

Financial News

Special Offerings

Fiscal YTD

Thrivent Choice	\$ -0-
Total	\$ -0-

Special Gifts

Fiscal YTD

Advertising	\$ 60
Building	
10 for 10 Campaign	\$ 490
Principal Paydown	\$3,165
Endowment	\$ 204
Memorials	\$1,863
Missions	\$1,838
PPP Grant	\$3,688
Total	\$11,308

**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!



6

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 December 2020	\$ 19,102
Given Fiscal YTD (August-October 2020)	\$ 86,140

2019-20 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 12/31/2020)

Checking	\$129,475
Savings	\$ 18,884
Endowment	\$ 39,578

Income v. Expenses

Needed in December	\$ 18,842
Given in October 2020	\$ 19,102
Needed Year-to-Date	\$ 94,210
Given Year-to-Date	\$ 86,140

Loan Summary

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

Preschool and Kindergarten



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.

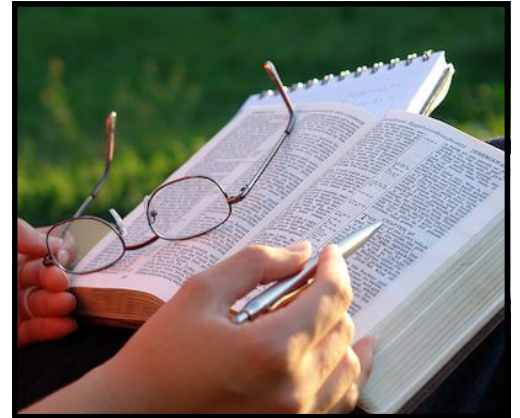
All necessary enrollment information and materials are available on the school's website:

littledovespreschool.com.

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

Reading through the Bible in 2021

We continue to read through the Bible this year. A reading plan is available which includes references to Bible Project videos that relate to what we're reading each week. We also have a forum on our website where you can ask questions and get answers about what you are reading. Participate as much as you can or as little as you like. Some of you may choose to just watch the videos, read the forum or read. Whatever your level of involvement, we know that being in God's Word is a worthwhile use of your time.





Engaging God
Engaging Each Other ~ Engaging the World



TIDINGS OF PEACE

Peace Lutheran Church

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Address Correction Requested

