Peace Lutheran Church
Tidings of Peace
OCTOBER 2026

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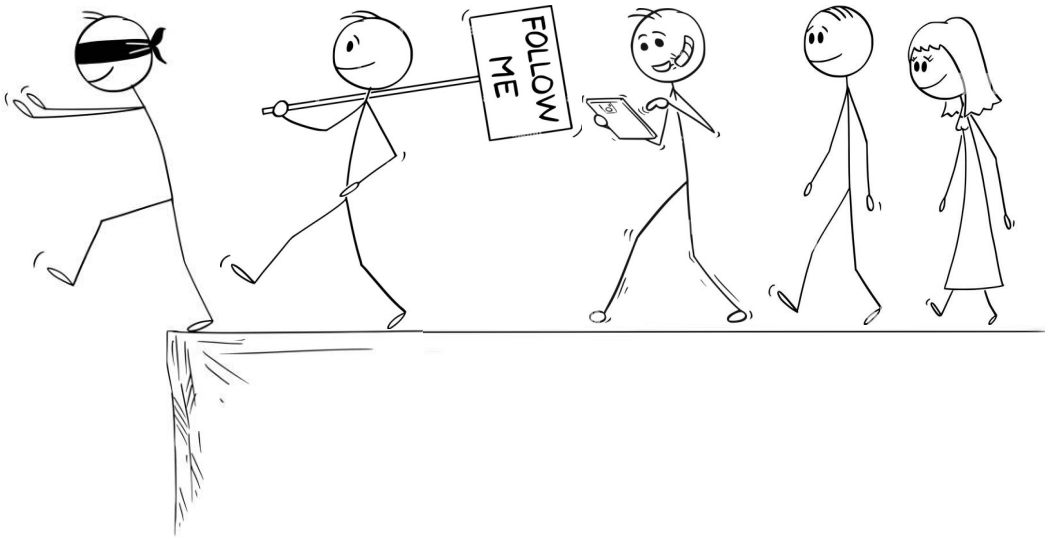

In my office there is a baseball signed by a baseball player named Al Kaline. I am not sure when I became a fan. It could have been in 1968 when he starred in the World Series, and I decided that I was going to grow up to play professional baseball. Or it might have been on a summer night when I was listening to a ballgame and noticed that his name was on a package of alkaline batteries. Whenever it began, Al became a very important part of my life. I never met him, but I looked up to him and wanted to grow up to be like him. I was beyond thrilled when he hit a home run in the first major league game I ever attended. I was devastated when he made a throwing error in the playoffs that led to the Tigers being eliminated. Al was my hero.

My fascination with Al Kaline was probably not unusual. We have always looked up to people who possess abilities we admire. But our culture has taken this tendency to a new level. We don't simply admire celebrities; we often turn them into heroes whose lives seem larger than our own. Why are heroes so important to us? American culture celebrates heroes. Not only that, but we often idolize people who because of their athletic prowess, acting ability, wealth, or influence have been propelled into public focus. The word "idolize" is interesting because it comes from the idea of an idol—an image that takes the place of God. As Christians, this should make us sit up and take notice. The bible is very clear that idolatry is wrong. I am not suggesting that being a sports fan is necessarily idolatry. The problem begins when admiration becomes idealization—when our attachment to someone makes it difficult for us to

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see that person honestly. I certainly didn't worship Al Kaline, but I did have an idealized idea of who he was. I felt strangely connected to him. When he did well, I was happy and when he did poorly, I was sad. It makes me wonder how we should evaluate those we admire?

There is certainly nothing wrong with admiring someone who has a special skill or ability. It is good to thank God for those who are able to do things that impress or amaze us. On the other hand, if our admiration leads us to over emphasize the things we admire and to be blind to the inevitable flaws, we have a problem. Yet fame only tells us that a person is widely known. It tells us nothing of the character of the person. Public figures are sinners and human beings like the rest of us. He or she is a mix of virtue and sin, of good ideas and bad ideas, of character traits worth emulating and character traits we should avoid. While it is good to celebrate and appreciate virtue, we should not allow admiration to blind us to a person's failures. We can recognize what is worthy of imitation without pretending that the person is without fault.

This is hard because once we have "idolized" a person we feel connected to them. If they do or say something we disagree with it is difficult to admit it. We tend to reject facts that disagree with our previous beliefs rather than publicly change our minds to accommodate the new facts. Psychologists call this confirmation bias—the tendency to search out, remember, and favor facts that agree with us and ignore those that disagree with us. Since Christians believe that the truth is important, it is important for us to be aware of this tendency and with the help of the Holy Spirit seek what is true even when it is difficult.

Human heroes will always disappoint us because they are human. Even the people we admire most are a mixture of virtue and sin. Christians therefore don't need to defend their heroes at all costs. We can appreciate their gifts, acknowledge their failures, and learn from both. Our ultimate model is not a celebrity, athlete, politician, or public figure. It is Jesus. He does not ask us to pretend that other people are perfect, nor does he ask us to defend them when they are wrong. Instead, he teaches us to love what is true and good. The Bible tells us, "Test everything. Hold on to what is good. Keep away from every kind of evil." (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22) We don't have to be afraid to change our minds. When we or the people we "idolize" make mistakes, we don't have to be surprised or try to cover it up. We can honestly acknowledge the errors and look to Jesus who is the ultimate truth.

The baseball signed by Al Kaline is still in my office. I still appreciate what he accomplished, and I still remember what it meant to me as a boy. But I no longer need to imagine that my heroes are perfect. I can admire their gifts without making them idols. I can celebrate what is good, recognize what is flawed, and test everything against what is true.

Todd 907-259-5115

Engage God
Each Other ~ The World

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.

Church Office Staff
& Todd Roeske
Pastor

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Monroe, WA 98272

Church Phone
360-794-2082

School Phone
360-794-7230

Web Site
www.peacemonroe.org

Email
todd@peacemonroe.org
peacechurchmon-
roe@live.com

October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1 Taylor Arden	2	3
4	5 Brad Feilberg	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Kim Latimore Bruce Johnston	15	16 Ingrid Tompkins	17 Karen Johnson Shelley Wallace
18	19	20 Cindy Zirkle	21 Pearl Noel Johnston Kathy Skirvin	22	23	24
25	26	27 Barb Baily	28	29	30	31

Worship ~ Study ~ Commune ~ Serve

WORSHIP
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Spanish Services at 1:00 p.m.

Bring the joy of the Lord. Invite your friends and neighbors! We'll have fun!

You can join us on **YouTube: @peacechurchmonroe**
Scan the QR code to receive updates.
You can also visit our website (peacechurchmonroe.org).

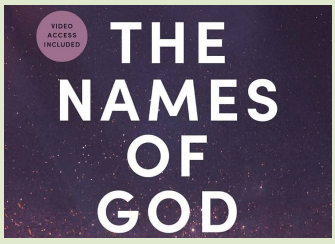
LEARNING FROM JESUS

Use this link to get your copy of our 2026 Bible Reading Guide:
e6aaa4_4902290dc2234e97a3db5c7908167dfc.pdf

Reading Guides are also available in the church entry on the table.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Monday Evenings Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
for the next
7 weeks



September Study:
The Names of God — Bible Study Book| Lifeway
Contact Cara for more information:
206-226-4933

Would you like to receive a weekly prayer letter?

Email Pastor Todd
(todd@peacemonroe.org)

OCTOBER PARKING LOT EVENT

Thursday, October 8th @ 3:15 p.m.

"Stop for a cookie" - Donate cookies,
or help us pass them out!

The Book of Daniel

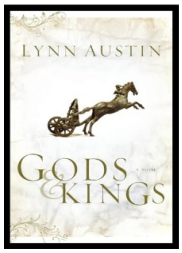
New Bible Study Coming soon!

Sunday Mornings 8:45

WOULD YOU LIKE A COPY OF OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY? Pick one up at the church, or request a copy in-person. Call the office: **360-794-2082** to request a PDF version. *For privacy, the directory will not be published online*.

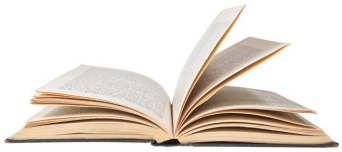
Family Directory 2026-2027

WOMEN'S GROUP BOOK FUN!



Saturday's 9:00-11:00a.m.
Last day: October 10
Church Fellowship Room
Books provided
All are welcome!

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



Readers and Communion Assistants

Available to help with **Sunday morning readings**? Assist with **communion**? Contact Jill Burrington Brown (jill.burrington.brown@frontier.com) or the church office (peacechurchmonroe@live.com).



Altar Guild Volunteers

We're also looking for **additional help setting up and cleaning up for communion** on Sunday. Volunteers also help with decorating the sanctuary on occasion. If you can help, please leave a message for Karen Johnson at the church office (peacechurchmonroe@live.com).

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE



Sunday Morning Treats

Looking for additional ways to give? Consider sharing a package of cookies, a pound of coffee, creamer, or lemonade mix. Surprise us with your favorite after-church treat!



Take the Next Step 2-4-1 Project

We continue our support of Take the Next Step with monthly meals for those in need in our community. See the list of specific needs in the entry at church. Your gifts provide two days of food and four meals a day for one person (2-4-1). Thank you for continuing to do what you do!

ONE PARISH ONE PRISONER

Recruiting for a New Team
Become friends with an incarcerated person
We need 3 more volunteers for a new team!

UNDERGROUND MINISTRIES

BRUNCH CHURCH

Sunday, October 11th
10:00 am

Feast on God's Word
Share Community
Bring a dish to pass

September Financial Report

Special Offerings

	Fiscal YTD
Building Maintenance	$ 30
Thrivent Choice	$ 25
Total	**$ 55**

...also excel in this grace of giving.
2 Corinthians 8:7

Would you like to give your offerings online?

It's easy!

You may also use Zelle®: donations@peacemonroe.onmicrosoft.com

It's easy and no cost to you and no cost to Peace!

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever.
Psalm 107:1

Given August 2026	**$ 9,488**
Given Fiscal YTD (August 2025-July 2026)	**$ 9,488**

2026-27 Budget (approved July 2026)

Foundation	$188,168
Salary and Benefits	
Administration	
Building Loan	
Ministries	
Reaching Up	$ 2,950
Worship	
Reaching Out	$ 14,989
The World	
The Nation	
The Region	
Reaching In	$ 2,450
Education	
Spiritual Growth	
Fun and Fellowship	
Supplies	
Total	**$208,557**

Assets (as of 8/31/2026)

Checking	$113,453
Savings	$ 18,923
Endowment	$ 57,725

Income v. Expenses

Needed in August	$ 17,380
Given in August	**$ 9,488**
Needed Fiscal Year-to-Date	$ 17,380
Given Fiscal Year-to-Date	**$ 9,488**





Little Doves
Preschool, Pre-K, and Kindergarten







Fred Meyer
community rewards
Where shopping & giving unite

YOU CAN HELP LITTLE DOVES PRESCHOOL EARN DONATIONS

JUST BY SHOPPING WITH YOUR FRED MEYER REWARDS CARD!

Fred Meyer is donating $2.5 million per year to non-profits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, based on where their customers tell them to give. Here's how the program works:

- Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Little Doves at **www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards**. You can search for us by our name or by our **non-profit number** IH075
- Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping Little Doves earn a donation!
- You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today.
- If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store.
- For more information, please visit **www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards**.



Men's Breakfast
Sat 10/10 at 8:00 a.m.
Buzz Inn, Monroe

Men's "Iron Sharpens Iron"
Thu 10/01 at 7:00 p.m.
Bob Johnson's House
128 E Rivemont Dr. Monroe

LUNCH BUNCH: Oct 14 (TBD)
See PLC Emails
Contact: Ken & Nancy Strain
(425-308-9984)

BUNCH CHURCH
Sunday, October 11th @ 10:00 am

LDPK TRUNK OR TREAT
Friday, October 30th @ 6:30 pm

Engaging God

Engaging Each Other ~ Engaging the World

TIDINGS OF PEACE
Peace Lutheran Church
202 Dickinson Street
Monroe, WA 98272
Address Correction Requested