



# Peace Lutheran Church Tidings of Peace

March 2021

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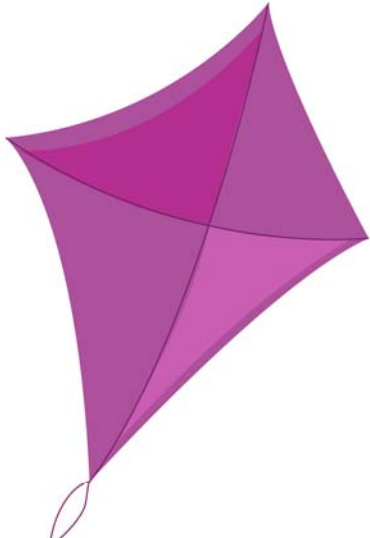
## Lessons That Sink Deep *by Pastor Todd Roeske*

Imagine that you were a common laborer. All day long you had to mix mortar to make bricks. You were not paid. You were a slave. Life was hard. One day, a dreamer rose up among your people. He hadn't been a slave. He was raised in the king's palace. Then he had lived in exile for years. Now he was back and he was talking. He was talking about God. He said, "God wants to set you free." The message sounded hopeful, but you were still skeptical. If God wanted to help, why had he waited so long. Your people had been slaves for a hundred years. Then the dreamer did something awful. He confronted the king and asked the King to let you free. That made the king mad and the next thing you knew your life got harder. Now you had to make as many bricks as

you had in the past but now you had to find your own materials. This sucked. Life was miserable. Yet the dreamer kept talking. He was out of touch. All you wanted was to keep your head down, make your bricks, and enjoy the little time you got with your family in this short miserable life.

Then the plagues started. It started with the water. All of the water in the river turned red like blood. Everywhere throughout the country the water was blood except in your region. Was it possible that the dreamer was telling the truth? Was it possible that God had a bigger plan for you and your fellow slaves? Before long, you heard about frogs covering the king's palace and all of his lands though you yourself had not seen a frog in

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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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your place. Again, and again the plagues came to the rulers, but you remained safe. It was an amazing coincidence—or was it? No. It was not a coincidence. It was God acting. It was hard to believe. You had not actually seen the plagues since they all happened to the king and his people. Still, the stories were flying. God was doing something amazing.

Then the night came. It was the special night where the dreamer asked you to paint blood on the edges of your doors. You did it. You heard the screams of the rulers. Something awful had happened. The firstborn in every household had died. Yet, you and your country mates had no deaths in your houses. You packed your things and headed out with all of your people. There were thousands of you. Some of your neighbors gave you parting gifts. Some joined your procession. You were leaving. You would be free.

Imagine the joy in your heart until you looked back after a couple of days and saw the cloud of dust coming from the chariots and soldiers who were pursuing you. In front of you lay an uncrossable sea. Behind you, an army approaches. You can see how this will end. You are free from slavery but now you will be slaughtered in the desert. You are unarmed. You wouldn't know how to use a

weapon if you had one. Your whole life you had been a slave.

Then you see the dreamer standing high on a rock above the sea. He raises his staff toward the water and shouts for you to move forward. If you stay still, you die at the hands of the soldiers, so you begin to move toward the water. A strong wind blows. For hours the wind blows and the water moves. In front of you the water is gone. You head across the sea. When you reach the other side, you are exhilarated. You are free. The wind stops and the water returns. The soldiers who were brave enough to follow you are swept away. God has truly acted. It is a miracle.

So, as you reflect on the story, what did you learn? What did you discover about yourself? What did you discover about God? What do those lessons have to do with you now after a year of weirdness caused by our global pandemic and social upheaval? The lessons that sink deepest into our souls are not those that someone tells you, but those that you learn through reflecting on the stories that God walks you through. May your Lenten journey be filled with reflection and learning through God's Holy Spirit!

***Engage God***

***Each Other ~ The World***



## Peace Profiles: Linda Herman by Michael Mates

For someone who has lived in three different countries (PNG, UK, USA) and visited dozens, Linda Herman has enjoyed a remarkably stable employment history—as director of Little Doves Preschool and Kindergarten since July 1993. Her final job interview and hiring agreement took place in a telephone call between Monroe and Papua New Guinea, where she was living with her husband Joe, whom she met at Concordia College in Seward (Nebraska) while completing a degree in early childhood education. Those of us who recall the complexity and expense of international phone calls in those days will recognize how seriously Little Doves was seeking her services!

Like her father, an LCMS Pastor who passed away several years ago, she was called to her position as a worker in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

As with Linda's travel experience, the Little Doves experience is rich and variegated; check the website to see how very young children—some of them children of former students—are exposed to tactile, social, and mental stimulation, in a Christian environment where they can learn about Jesus.

<https://www.littledovespreschool.com/>

As you might imagine, the pandemic has been hard on Little Doves. Despite the children's excellent adjustment to masks and social distancing, the school was closed from March to October, enrollment is about half the usual 50 or more children, and revenue is down. Linda has learned a great deal about staff number-juggling, grants, loans and running a school during a pandemic in the past year. But the most constant lesson has been her scriptural motto, Proverbs 3:5-6:

*5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart  
And do not lean on your own understanding.  
6 In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He will make your paths straight.*

We are all looking forward to the 30-year anniversary cake in two years and a few months!

# Worship ~ Study ~ Commune ~ Serve



## Worship

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

Bring your mask.

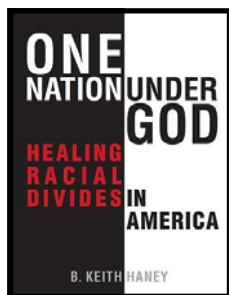
Be sure you're healthy. Temperatures are taken.  
Bring the joy of the Lord. It's great to be together.

*"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.



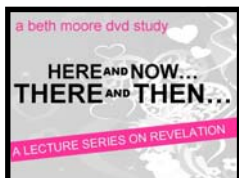
## Adult Study

**"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.

## Our Journey through Lent Wednesdays, March 3-24 at 7:00 p.m.

We continue our journey to the cross with a special worship devotional video each week. Just go to YouTube (Peace Lutheran Church) or Facebook (Peace Church Monroe).



## 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

January 2021

Participating on the Leadership Team are Brad Feilberg, John Gose, Kim Green, Michael Mates, Deanna Nowadnick, and Kurt Latimore. Kurt retired at the end of the month and we now have Shelley Wallace serving as our fifth member. Also attending our calls are Pastor Todd and Linda Herman, our preschool director.

- COVID Response as a Church and School

We have continued to talk through our COVID response as a church and school. Pastor Todd and Linda have worked tirelessly, thinking through how best to minister and teach during these unprecedented times.

- Lent and Easter Plans

Plans for Lent included in-person service on Ash Wednesday (which was also streamed live on Facebook). Pastor Todd will air weekly videos on Wednesday evening through Lent. Holy Week will include Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship services. And then! We're planning a special outdoor Easter worship celebration. We're still working through the details, but we expect to have time with our Hispanic church friends, special activities for the children, and singing (hence, our plans to be outdoors).

- Parsonage Repairs

We have continued to work with Pastor Todd and his family on parsonage repairs, including re-roofing of the back side of the house. We are looking for someone who can help us coordinate maintenance and repair activities at the parsonage, relieving our tenants of these responsibilities.

- Parsonage Study Team

We have pulled together a three-person study team to help us begin thinking about our options regarding the parsonage. The home at 695 Park Lane is owned outright by the church. When we called Pastor Todd, we told him that we were open to discussions about the parsonage. Increasingly pastors and their families want their own home, a place that meets their needs, a place where they can build their own equity. Questions that have arisen: 1) Is it time to sell the parsonage? 2) If we sell the parsonage, how could the proceeds be set aside for an ongoing housing allowance for pastor? Future pastors? 3) What repairs/upgrades would be needed, if we should decide to sell? 4) If we decide not to sell, is it possible to use the property for other purposes? We don't expect the study team to decide what we should do. We're more interested in their help gathering information for the Leadership Team to weigh, so we can make a recommendation (or not) to the congregation.

- Zion School Board

We are pleased to have Bob Johnson and Michael Mates representing Peace on the Zion School Board. Their insight and wisdom will be a blessing to the school.

- Missions

We are interested in serving our community, the region, and the world, "witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Act 1:8). More to come!

# Financial News

## Special Offerings

### Fiscal YTD

Building "10-for-10"	\$ 690
Thrivent Choice	\$ 198
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 888</b>

## 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	\$ 623
PPP Grant	\$3688
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,993</b>

**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](http://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

<b>Given January 2021</b>	<b>\$ 13,728</b>
<b>Given Fiscal YTD (August 2020-January 2021)</b>	<b>\$ 99,869</b>

### 2020-21 Budget (approved July 2020)

Foundation	\$195,707
Salary and Benefits	
Administration	
Building Loan	
Ministries	
Reaching Up	\$ 2,400
Worship	
Reaching Out	\$ 21,800
The World	
The Nation	
The Region	
Reaching In	\$ 6,200
Education	
Spiritual Growth	
Fun and Fellowship	
Supplies	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$226,107</b>

### Assets (as of 1/31/2021)

Checking	\$125,293
Savings	\$ 18,885
Endowment	\$ 45,563

### Income v. Expenses

Needed in January 2021	\$ 18,842
<b>Given in January 2021</b>	<b>\$ 13,728</b>
Needed Year-to-Date	\$113,054
<b>Given Year-to-Date</b>	<b>\$ 99,869</b>

### 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](http://littledovespreschool.com).

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



## Easter Celebration!

Sunday, April 6

Plans are in the works for a very special Easter celebration—outside—with our Hispanic church friends. We'll have an Easter egg hunt and fun activities for the kids, too. Bring your friends and family and join us for a very joyful worship service for all. More details to come!



## Engaging God

Engaging Each Other ~ Engaging the World



### TIDINGS OF PEACE

**Peace Lutheran Church**

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Address Correction Requested