



Peace Lutheran Church Tidings of Peace

January 2026

The Great Things God Did (and Continues to Do)

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Back

I used to spend a lot of time in the woods when I was a kid. Sometimes I would be hunting, other times cutting wood, and other times just exploring.

Occasionally, I would have to stop and look around me. I would have to consider where I was so that I would not get lost. If it was in unfamiliar woods, I would take note of an interesting stump or tree so that I would have a landmark. That way as I was trying to find my way home, I would have something familiar to find to help me keep my way.

It is probably good for all of us to do that once in a while. We need to stop and notice where we are and how the Lord has gotten us to this place. When the prophet Samuel was giving a king to the people of Israel, he gave them this advice, "Consider the great things he (God) did for you." (1 Samuel 12:24)

In other words, stop and think

about how God has gotten you to this place.

We can each individually take some time to consider the blessings the Lord has given us and how he has gotten us to the beginning of 2026. I would also like to think through what God has done for our little congregation, so that we can think about where he might be leading us in 2026.

One positive thing is that our Sunday worship attendance is up an average of 10% per year since 2022. We are back to pre-COVID levels of attendance, and we have a lot of new people who have joined our journey of following Jesus. Our Brunch Church Sundays and our annual Prayer Walk have been fun ways to help us to grow as a congregation.

On the other side, our Sunday morning Bible Study has never really recovered after COVID.

We have a wonderful small group

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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.

Todd Roeske
Pastor

Tarrell Johnston
Church Office Staff

Peace@Monroe

202 Dickinson Street
Monroe, WA 98272

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360-794-7230

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that meets on Sunday mornings, but it is about half the size of when I first arrived here. Saturday Morning and Monday Evening Women's Bible studies have been going well, and they are a blessing to those who participate. Lunch Bunch, Men's Breakfast, and Iron Sharpens Iron have been great fellowship times.

Our mission to children and young families has been very strong. We have a great group of Children's Church teachers and teachers who share Children's Messages.

Little Doves continues to excel at serving young families. Our partnership with Zion Lutheran School has helped us share the Good News of Jesus with over 100 students and their families.

Our Parking Lot Outreach events to the students from Frank Wagner have connected us with 60 to 90 students each month. Many of you have donated supplies or helped us pass out goodies. Your generosity even resulted in a family coming to worship with us.

Last summer, we had over 30 children attend our Bible Day

Camp program. We sent a mission team to Alaska to do a VBS program that was a wonderful blessing for the people of Chitina and those who were able to go and serve.

Our Spanish-speaking brothers and sisters continue to be a wonderful blessing to us. I love when we gather with them to worship together as we did three times last year. Their energy and enthusiastic praise is an encouragement to all of us. They step up to do a lot of maintenance and cleaning at the church. We are so thankful for them as they work to share Jesus with our Spanish-speaking neighbors. When one of their families had their house burn down, you responded with a door offering of almost \$500.

We have donated 24 food bags a month to Take the Next Step for over 5 years. This outreach has made a huge impact on our community. Our partnership with Take the Next Step has blessed those in our community who are financially challenged or unhoused.

You generously donated over 40 pairs of gloves to our unhoused neighbors for

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Christmas. We hosted a community dinner in November, and it was great to see many new people get involved.

Through our Mission Endowment and your coins for missions, we were able to bless Take the Next Step, the Baker family mission in Mongolia, Young Lives and the Bridge Receiving Center. We had two missionary families visit us: The Bakers from Mongolia and the Trumps from Kenya. You generously gave sizable donations to each family.

Our Friday night English Conversation class has had students from Mexico, Peru, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, and Iran. It has been a great way to show our love to those who have immigrated to our country.

We continue to walk alongside Jonathan and Angelie through our One Parish One Prisoner program.

You have been incredibly supportive of my work in Asia as we continue to share the love of Jesus around the world.

As I look at the many good things the Lord has been doing in and through our congregation, I am astonished that he chooses to use this small congregation to do such amazing things. He has given you such generosity and love that truly points to the reality of Jesus in our midst. It encourages me to look forward to see what God will do in and through us in 2026.

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Happy New Year!

Todd (907-259-5115)



January Celebrations

Birthdays

- 2 Kirsten Carlson
- 4 Shannon Moore
- 5 Karen Wojahn
- 7 Kurt Nowadnick
Jerry Ternes
- 20 Sheryl Becker
Pastor Ignacio Castro
- 22 Kurt Latimore
Lynsie Hagen
- 24 Chuck Swanson

Anniversaries

- 2 Joe and Linda Herman
- 19 Mike and Kirsten Carlson
- 20 Steve and Barb Bailey

Thank
you!

Kim and I would like to thank each of you for your incredible generosity this Christmas season. We were blessed by your gifts of baked goods, candy, money and more. But more than the gifts, we want to thank you for being a part of our Peace family. Each one of you is a blessing that we truly appreciate. We love each of you and pray for God's richest blessings in 2026.

Pastor Todd

Worship ~ Study ~ Commune ~ Serve



Worship

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Spanish Services at 1:00 p.m.

New Sermon Series: The 7 Big Questions

beginning Sunday, January 18

Joint Service with our Hispanic Brothers and Sisters

on Sunday, January 11



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.

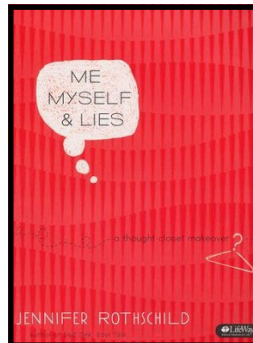
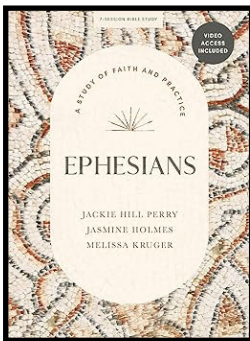
You can also visit our website (peacechurchmonroe.org).

LEARNING FROM JESUS

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

[e6aaa4_4902290dc2234e97a3db5c7908167dfc.pdf](https://www.pearcechurchmonroe.org/e6aaa4_4902290dc2234e97a3db5c7908167dfc.pdf)

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



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

**Monday Evenings at 6:30 p.m.,
beginning January 4**

“Ephesians” by Jackie Perry and Others
Church Entry Area

**Saturday Mornings at 9:00 a.m.,
beginning January 10**
Church Fellowship Room

Would you like to receive a weekly prayer letter?

Email Pastor Todd (todd@peacemonroe.org).



PARKING LOT EVENT

Thursday 1/8

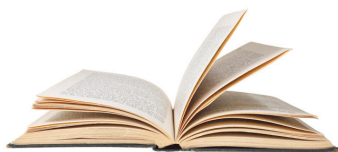
3:15 p.m.

Stop by for donuts!

*Join us for this special time
with our wonderful neighbors and the kids!*

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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).



Web Site Volunteer

We are looking for someone to help us **manage our church website**:
peacemonroe.org.

If you are interested or just want to know more, please contact Pastor Todd (907-259-5115).

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!



LUNCH BUNCH

Wed 1/14

SAIGON KITCHEN

249 E. Main Street in Monroe

Please RSVP to Ken and Nancy Strain
by Mon 1/12 (425-308-9984).

Meet Ken and Nancy at the restaurant.

Need a ride? Let Ken and Nancy know!

All are welcome! Bring your friend!



FINANCIAL REPORT

Special Offerings

Fiscal YTD

Building Maintenance	\$ 90
Thrivent Choice	\$ 102
Total	\$ 192

Special Gifts

Fiscal YTD

Missions	\$ 441
Total	\$ 441

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

Would you like to give your offerings online?

Just go to <https://give.cornerstone.cc/peacemonroe>
or access the link
at peacemonroe.org.

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 October 2025	\$ 11,358
Given Fiscal YTD (August 2025-July 2026)	\$ 35,979

2025-26 Budget (approved July 2025)

Foundation	\$174,148
Salary and Benefits	
Administration	
Building Loan	
Ministries	
Reaching Up	\$ 2,900
Worship	
Reaching Out	\$ 4,740
The World	
The Nation	
The Region	
Reaching In	\$ 2,800
Education	
Spiritual Growth	
Fun and Fellowship	
Supplies	
Total	\$184,588

Assets (as of 10/31/2025)

Checking	\$ 67,582
Savings	\$ 18,917
Endowment	\$ 51,630

Income (from all Sources) v. Expenses

Needed in October	\$ 15,382
Given in October	\$ 11,358
Needed Fiscal Year-to-Date	\$ 46,146
Given Fiscal Year-to-Date	\$ 35,979



Little Doves

Preschool, Pre-K, and Kindergarten



Kindergarten Class



T-Th AM Program



M-W-F AM Program



Happy New Year from Little Doves!



Men's Breakfast

Sat 1/10 at 8:00 a.m.
Buzz Inn, Monroe

Men's "Iron Sharpens Iron"

Thu 1/15 at 7:00 p.m.
Ken Strain's House
21011 95th Street SE, Snohomish



Wed 1/14
SAIGON KITCHEN
249 E. Main Street in Monroe

Please RSVP
to Ken and Nancy Strain
(425-308-9984).

All are welcome!



Engaging God

Engaging Each Other ~ Engaging the World

TIDINGS OF PEACE

Peace Lutheran Church

202 Dickinson Street
Monroe, WA 98272

Address Correction Requested