



Peace Lutheran Church

Tidings of Peace

June 2021

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Philip Yancy wrote, "In the early days of the Alaska Highway, tractor-trailer trucks would make deep ruts in the gravel as they carried construction equipment to boomtowns up north. Someone posted this sign at the beginning of the road: CHOOSE YOUR RUT CAREFULLY. YOU'LL BE IN IT FOR THE NEXT 200 MILES." Habits affect us. Good habits lead us to keep in shape, eat well, and have good oral hygiene. Bad habits lead us to keep a wider shape, eat (*pause*) well, whatever, whenever it makes us feel good, and have a good dentist that lives in a big house. Even though we know the value of good habits, they are hard to establish and easy to lose. Bad habits, on the other hand,

tend to be easy to establish and hard to lose.

COVID has affected all our habits. We have learned the importance of good hand hygiene. We have learned to never walk out the door without our friendly facial covering. We have also learned how not to shake hands, hug, and get close to others. I wonder which of those habits will persist.

One important habit that I wonder about is the habit of joining together in worship. Some folks have persisted even through times of social distancing, no singing, and masks. Others have found a new habit of joining their fellow Jesus followers on Facebook live.

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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

Rebeca Castro
Church Office Administrator
& Newsletter Editor

Peace@Monroe

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Still others, have slipped away from joining for regular worship to receive the Sacrament, hear God's Word, and encourage their fellow brothers and sisters. When you get used to not being in worship on Sunday, other things start to fill that space in your life. Sunday excursions, Sunday brunch, a little extra sleep, sporting events, and other things fill up the time that you used to spend with other believers. After a while, you form new habits, and it is hard to go back to the old habit of regular corporate worship.

So what are you missing when you don't gather regularly with other believers? There are many things, but the one that stands out to me is Christian community.

Chris was having a rough week. He didn't feel much like going to church but it was something he always did. So, he dragged himself out of bed, got a cup of coffee, got dressed and headed off to worship. At the door, Suzy smiled at him. Then, as he walked into the sanctuary, that couple whose names he could never remember greeted him with a genuine, "Good to see you!" Then the obnoxious lady that sings too loud and always has an opinion about everything turned around and said, "Hi Chris." As the congregation struggled through the first song, Chris started to sing along. He felt connected to all the others

who were offering their praise. Chris didn't remember the readings or the sermon, but he did remember sharing Jesus' body and blood. On the way out of the service, Bill struck up a conversation. Chris was able to share his rough week; and somehow as he shared, the week didn't seem as rough as it had when he woke up.

Christian community is what happens when God's people come together. Sometimes we need to be encouraged. Sometimes we need to encourage. Always we need each other. The bible says it this way, " We must also consider how to encourage each other to show love and to do good things. We should not stop gathering together with other believers, as some of you are doing. Instead, we must continue to encourage each other even more as we see the day of the Lord coming." (Hebrews 10:24-25 GWN)

So, if you are going to get into a rut, let it be the rut of coming together to worship God and encourage each other! See you Sunday.

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



Peace Profiles: Merlaine Barnett

By Michael Mates

When asked if she would like to be the subject of a profile, Merlaine Barnett gave a warning: "I go a long way back." The warning was good preparation for a discussion of telephone use, informal hiring practices decades ago, and long-term steady faithfulness.

During her high school years in Minot, North Dakota, she spent her afternoons at home, operating the local telephone switchboard. That consisted of ringing a two-digit number (her household, along with several others, shared the number 75, with different combinations of three rings, short or long. "You always knew who was getting a phone call," she noted. After graduating from high school, she operated the switchboard at a local bank.

Soon, the responsibilities of motherhood intervened, as she and her husband George had four daughters, and she made all their clothing. (You can see examples of the artistic side of her seamstress talents in the green, blue and gold paraments--altar covers--and the fine-art crochet of the Last Supper, hanging on the wall to your right as you enter the church by the front entrance.)

Merlaine and her husband moved to Monroe after reading a help-wanted ad in the Minot newspaper, placed there in 1966 by the owner of Collins Chevrolet in Monroe, who chose Minot because he "wanted someone who can work, and you have to work in North Dakota!" So out they came, joining Peace Lutheran that same year at the encouragement of a neighbor.

Merlaine's hiring as Church Secretary was also informal. In 1970, when Pastor Wenzel mentioned that he wanted someone in the office full time, Merlaine replied "if you get desperate, give me a call." Not missing a beat, the pastor said, "Come in at 9:00 tomorrow."

And so began 38 years of ministry in the charisma of administration, during which Merlaine filled in large gaps in church records by researching council minutes and parishioners' memories, rejoiced in all the details of parish life, and made it a special ministry to "dismiss the exterior to focus on God's gifts inside. And there were so many of them!"

Merlaine noted that she was the only person who has held the title of Church Secretary at Peace Lutheran. With a characteristic chuckle, she said that this qualifies her as the best—and also as the worst!

Thanks, Merlaine, for 55+ years of service at Peace Lutheran since 1966. The 60th anniversary cake is going to be awesome!

Worship ~ Study ~ Commune ~ Serve



Worship

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

Bring your mask.

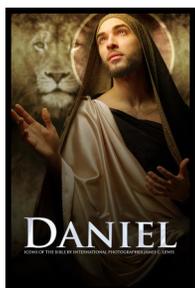
Be sure you're healthy. Temperatures are taken.
Bring the joy of the Lord. It's great to be together.

*"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.

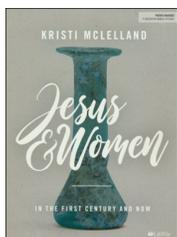
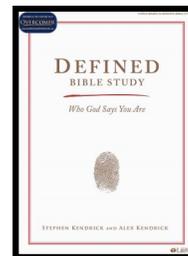


Adult Study The Old Testament Book of Daniel Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

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 (Summer) Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

Led by Cara Fleming on Jesus and Women. For more information,
please call or text Cara @ 206-226-4933.

DORCAS - June 23rd at 9:30 AM

At the church, our goal is to make 3-4 quilts. Bring a lunch to join us after.

A Special Invitation
from Your Church Leadership Team

Parsonage Discussion Series

Sundays, June 13, June 20, and June 27
9:15-9:45 a.m. (between worship services)

You are cordially invited and encouraged to participate in a series of listening sessions when we will be discussing the church parsonage and our options regarding its use.

The church owns a three-bedroom home on a larger fenced lot at 695 Park Lane, one block from church. The parsonage has been shared with Peace pastors and their families for many, many years. When we voted to call Pastor Todd, we agreed to include wording in his divine call that the parsonage was open to discussion: “We currently have a parsonage, but we’re willing to work with new pastor and his family regarding what can/will work best. *All options are on the table* (italics added).”

The parsonage has been a special asset and we want to continue to be good stewards of the property. No decision has been made regarding the parsonage. We’ve only decided to have the conversation together as a congregation. Pastor Todd is not driving this decision. We are only honoring our call to him. Nothing has to be done with the parsonage, but Pastor Todd and his family can choose to purchase their own home—again as outlined in his divine call.

We have known for years that this bigger discussion was coming. Back in the day, a parsonage was expected; it was one of the ways in which we cared for the pastor and his family. The home has been a blessing in many ways. In more recent times, pastors and their families have wanted their own homes for the same reasons that we all do: building of equity in a home that works best for their own family.

Our three-Sunday listening sessions will explore the options available to us. Our Housing Study Committee have provided five possible scenarios. I would expect our Sunday discussions to bring up others, too.

Please join us. As I said earlier, we want to be good stewards of the property. We want to honor this special gift that we’ve been able to share with the pastors of Peace. We also want to make sure that we provide for our pastors and their families in a way that supports and encourages them.

See you soon!

Deanna Nowadnick

Peace President

Financial News

Special Offerings

Fiscal YTD

Building "10-for-10"	\$1100
Thrivent Choice	\$ 745
Total	\$1845

Special Gifts

Fiscal YTD

Advertising	\$ 60
Building	
Loan Paydown	\$4930
Endowment	\$ 379
Memorials	\$1863
Missions	
Alaska	\$ 2155
Asia	\$ 1300
Africa (Shauen Trump)	\$ 115
Take the Next Step	\$ 825
PPP Grant	\$ 3688
Total	\$15,315

**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 April 2021	\$ 12,719
Given Fiscal YTD (August 2020-April 2021)	\$143,967

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	

Total \$226,107

Assets (as of 4/30/2021)

Checking	\$106,497
Savings	\$ 18,887
Endowment	\$ 45,563

Income v. Expenses

Needed in April 2021	\$ 18,842
Given in April 2021	\$ 12,719
Needed Year-to-Date	\$188,420
Given Year-to-Date	\$143,967

Loan Summary

Building Loan (as of 5//2021)	\$ 41,500
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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 06/14 @ 11:45 a.m.

Interpreter possibly available.

Las Tres Marias: 116 W Main St, Monroe, WA 98272

Grab a friend. Bring your neighbor.

Call Ken and Nancy, if you need a ride (425-308-9984).



Men's Breakfast

Sat 06/12 @ 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

