



Peace Lutheran Church

Tidings of Peace

January 2023

In This Issue

Pastor Todd's Message
Front

Leadership Team Highlights
Page 3

Worship and Study Times
page 4

Other Announcements
page 5

Financial Report
page 6

Little Doves School News
page 7

Lunch Bunch Men's Breakfast and Mission Statement
Back



Jamie M. Howard, Ph.D. - Aug 26, 2015

"Upon vacating the premises, we would like to politely request that the ultimate homo sapiens departing the chamber, open the electrical circuits thereby extinguishing the flow of photons from the phosphorescent tubes and or light emitting diodes." We tend to overcomplicate things. I could have just said, "Will the last one to leave, please turn out the lights." It is tempting to overcomplicate our Christian faith, as well.

Certainly, the Bible is complicated. There are a host of stories from an ancient culture that one can spend a lifetime exploring, digging out the deeper meaning, and connecting the themes. Millions of theological books and doctoral theses have been written exploring those. And yet all that complexity can be boiled down to a very simple message. God loved the world in this way, he sent

his one and only Son that whoever believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16). Since God loves us like this, we now love him and love other people (1 John 4:10-11). That is pretty straight forward.

And yet, it takes us a lifetime to figure out what that means and how to really live out those simple truths. How do we love and trust in God above all things? How do we love our fellow brothers and sisters at church? How do we love those with whom we work or go to school? How do we love those who struggle with their identity? How do we love those who have no homes? How do we love those who understand the world differently than we do? How do we love our enemies? How can we have enemies if we love those we thought were our enemies? And so on...

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Would you like to receive a weekly prayer letter?

Email Todd:
Todd@peacemonroe.org

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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Monroe, WA 98272

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continued from Previous Page

Being a disciple is not complicated. Even a child can follow Jesus and through his Spirit learn to love. Yet, that simple journey leads us through many complicated roads and questions. As we travel, we learn and grow. We learn to understand some of the more complicated aspects of the bible and of theology and yet no matter how long we follow Jesus, we never have it all figured out. So, we have to return again and again to those simple truths that guide us. God loves us, so love God, and love your neighbors.

Have a wonderful 2023!

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



Confirmation Classes

Ask Questions

Deepen Faith

Grow as a Disciple

- Eighth Graders, starting in the new year
- Once a week
- Schedule to be arranged with families

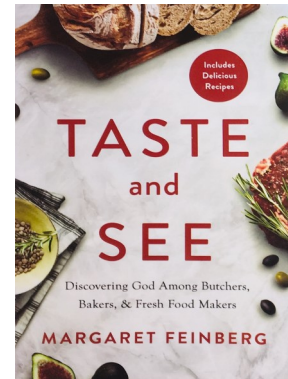
Flexible times. Interested?

Call Todd: 907-259-5115.

In Need of a Scheduler

We are looking for someone to coordinate reading and communion assistant schedules. Interested?

Call Todd: 907-259-5115.



**Women's Bible Study
Saturdays @ 9:00-11:00 am**

Beginning Sat 7/14

According to author Margaret Feinberg, God is a foodie who wants to transform our supper into sacrament. Margaret's study will take us on a culinary exploration of Scripture. We'll learn fresh Biblical discoveries as she shares stories from wandering a California farm with one of the world's premier fig farmers, baking fresh matzo at Yale University, descending 400 feet into the frosty white caverns of a salt mine, and visiting a remote island in Croatia to harvest olives. With each visit, Margaret asks, "How do you read these Scriptures, not as theologians, but in light of what you do every day?" Their answers will forever change the way we read the Bible - and approach every meal.

Join us on Saturdays. Should be yummy fun! Should be insightfully delicious!



Happy New Year!

Deanna Nowadnick

I pray this finds you looking forward to a wonderful new year as you continue your walk with God. My own walk has included not only worship, study, and prayer, but also feet-on-the-pavement walks. For 869 consecutive days (and counting!), I've disconnected from my phone, my computer, and my TV and walked.

My walks started with a miserable slog around the block. After a wonderful time away with family, I'd stepped on the scale and looked down in horror: eight pounds! *Eight pounds?! Stepping away and looking in the mirror, I ripped into my reflection. Really, eight pounds? You're away on vacation eight days and you're up eight pounds?!?*

I looked down at the scale in disgust, trying hard to remember a great time away while staring at my pronounced flaws. I stepped away and stood in front of the mirror. My body shuddered; my shoulders slumped. My spirits low, my heart heavy, I stepped outside and began that miserable twenty-minute slog around the block.

On a beautiful summer morning, my feet balked with every step. The fresh air stung my cheeks. I barely looked ahead, afraid that every passing car, every neighbor would surely recognize my shame. That morning I could not have imagined my time outside would be the first of 869 walks. That such an accomplishment could come from such disappointment and frustration stuns me. That God could use a little fresh air to lead and direct me is overwhelming.

After vacation, I looked in the mirror and saw nothing but flaws, disappointment and frustration. God saw someone who'd fallen short in many, many ways, but who was about to reconnect with herself, but more importantly, with Him. I saw defeat. God saw promise. I saw wrong turns made, stumbles taken, missteps. God saw opportunities.

Post-Covid it's easy to "look in the mirror" as a church. It's easy to focus on our pronounced flaws. We can find our spirits sinking, our hearts getting heavy. Attendance is down. Giving is down. Special people are no longer with us. Some have moved away; some have passed away. So much isn't as it was.

That's what we see. God sees opportunities to reconnect with each other and with Him. God sees promise and possibilities as we reach out to His people. God sees opportunities for us to be a light in dark places.

Looking back, I smile at the woman whose frustration and disappointment found her fleeing the scale and stumbling out the door for a walk around the block. What started as an escape from a seemingly impossible situation became an opportunity to take my faith to a deeper, more personal level.

I smile, knowing He's here for us as His church, too!

Worship ~ Study ~ Commune ~ Serve



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

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.**

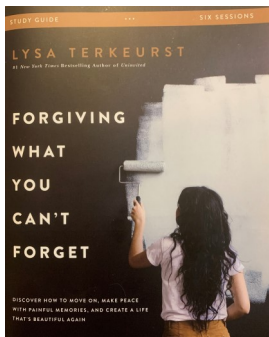
You can also call in by request. (907)259-5115

Weekly bulletins are available on our website (peacechurchmonroe.org).
Children's messages are available, too. Share with your friends and family.



Announcement - Election of Leadership Team Members

Election of Leadership Team members in February. Both Shelley and Laurie would like to continue, but we have a third position that is open. We have one open position. If you would like to serve, please let Deanna or Pastor Todd know. The term is two years. Meetings are held once a month. Your ideas and involvement would be most welcome.



NEW - Women's Bible Study Monday's @ 6:30 pm Beginning January 2

Forgiving what you can't forget, by *Lysa TerKeurst*.

"In *Forgiving What You Can't Forget*, readers will find that Lysa TerKeurst has wrestled through the journey of feeling stuck in a cycle of unresolved pain, playing offenses over and over in your mind. And she's discovered that, to find life-giving freedom, you have to let go of bound-up resentment and resistance to forgiving people who aren't willing to make things right. . "

Led by Cara Fleming



Saturday Devotions & Prayer

Saturday January 7, 10-11am. January 14, 21, and 28 from 9-11 am.



4

Word Studies in 2023

Learn about important Biblical Concepts through daily short readings and reflections.
A study guide for January is attached.

Leadership Team Retreat: CANCELED

Free English Conversation Classes - Fridays at 6 pm

Beginning January 13. Sign up to help! Todd@peacemonroe.org

Parking Lot Event Thursday, January 12 @ 3:15 pm

Event once a month, sign up to help! This month we will be welcoming all to stop by for candy canes when picking up children from school. Interested in helping?

Call Todd: 907-259-5115

Email Todd: Todd@peacemonroe.org

Funeral Service for Bob Mulholland - January 21 @ 1 pm

Brunch Church on Sun 1/22 at 10:00 am

We're cooking up a special morning of worship and breakfast.

Mark your calendar!

RightNow Media

"RightNow Media is like the Christian Netflix, with access to 20,000+ Bible Study videos, movies, and more!" There is material for all ages, and about just any subject. RightNow media is free to the congregation, and available for download through the App Store as well as Google Play. It is also available on fireTV, Apple TV, Android and Apple devices, Roku, and Chromecast. You can also use the Screen Casting option on your device to watch it on your smart TV.

To Sign up:

Visit <https://www.righnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/PEACELC>

Or Text "PLC" to 49775

You can also scan the QR code



Newsletter Items Due January 23

Financial News

Special Offerings

Fiscal YTD

Advertising	\$ 270
Building Maintenance	\$ 960
Thrivent Choice	\$ 39
Total	\$1,019

Special Gifts

Fiscal YTD

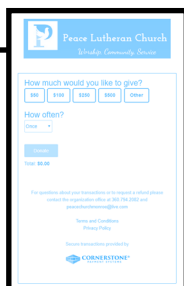
Endowment	\$ 210
Memorials	\$ 20
Total	\$ 230



**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

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Given October 2022	\$ 13,519
Given Fiscal YTD (August 2022-July 2023)	\$ 34,590

2022-23 Budget (approved July 2022)

Foundation	\$179,532
Salary and Benefits	
Administration	
Building Loan	
Ministries	
Reaching Up	\$ 2,150
Worship	
Reaching Out	\$ 7,710
The World	
The Nation	
The Region	
Reaching In	\$ 5,250
Education	
Spiritual Growth	
Fun and Fellowship	
Supplies	

Total \$194,642

Assets (as of 10/31/2022)

Checking	\$ 57,006
Savings	\$ 18,899
Endowment	\$ 45,240

Income v. Expenses

Needed in October 2022	\$ 16,220
Given in October 2022	\$ 13,519
Needed Fiscal Year-to-Date	\$ 48,660
Given Fiscal Year-to-Date	\$ 34,590

Loan Summary

Building Loan (as of 10/31/2022)	Paid off!!!
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Little Doves

Preschool and Kindergarten



Little Doves Preschool & Kindergarten

In December, the Christmas programs, crafts, and parties were very fun for all the children. We especially enjoyed having the families attend the Christmas programs and then participate making crafts with the children afterwards. We thank the Stocker family for donating a real Christmas tree for the school. That was super special!

In January we look forward to teaching many new subjects and working on fine and large motor skills with the children. ZooPhonics continues to be a wonderful curriculum to teach the sounds and recognition of letters. It is amazing to see how the children learn so fast and enjoy coming to school.

February 1, 2023, is the start of open registration for this coming fall. Updated registration forms will be on our website mid January (littledovespreschool.com). Open registration for returning families starts on January 23.

Wishing you all the very best New Year full of God's peace, joy, and love.

Linda Herman, Preschool Director:
littledovespreschool@gmail.com

(360-794-7230)

202 Dickinson Rd,
Monroe, WA 98272



LUNCH BUNCH

Wed 01/11 @ 11:45 a.m.

Jeno's: 123 E 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 01/14 @ 8:00 a.m.

Buzz Inn: 18960 U.S. Rte 2 #112, Monroe

Bob Johnson: (425-870-0681)



Engaging God

Engaging Each Other ~ Engaging the World

Snow Days: The office will be closed on snow days.
To reach Rebeca: Call or Text 425-344-3445.

TIDINGS OF PEACE

Peace Lutheran Church

202 Dickinson Street
Monroe, WA 98272

Address Correction Requested

