



Peace Lutheran Church Tidings of Peace

April 2021

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Message**
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There is a story that a new Chinese convert named Nyi asked the famous missionary Hudson Taylor a very difficult question. "How long have you had the glad tidings in England?" he asked unsuspectingly. The young missionary was ashamed to tell him and vaguely replied that it was several hundreds of years.

"What," exclaimed Nyi in astonishment, "several hundreds of years! Is it possible that you have known about Jesus so long, and only now have come to tell us? My father sought the truth for more than twenty years," he continued sadly, "and died without finding it. Oh, why did you not come sooner?"

This month we celebrate the wonderful news that Jesus overcame sin, death, and the devil by rising from the dead!

We tend to focus on the wonderful things that Jesus did for us as he conquered the grave. We no longer need to fear death. We are free from our sins. We have eternal life. Those are wonderful blessings, but there is also something implicit in Jesus' resurrection that sometimes gets deemphasized. Jesus told his disciples that

*"The messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in his name to **all nations**..."*

(Luke 24:46-47)

Jesus' resurrection marks the beginning of a new era in which all peoples are called to gather under one God in a kingdom that He rules by grace and love.

The word that translates

continued on next page



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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"nations" would be better translated "people groups" or "cultural groups". It is not talking about nations in the modern sense of France, Indonesia, or Zimbabwe. It is talking about groups of people that share a common culture.

Jesus came for all people from every background. He came for Nyi, the man in our Hudson Taylor story, for our Vietnamese gardener, for the Hmong family that sells flowers on the corner near Safeway, for our Spanish-speaking brothers and sisters who worship in our building, for the Norwegians who moved here from North Dakota, and every other people group in our community and around the world. As God's people who have realized the wonders of the resurrection and God's rule in our lives, we are called to welcome all people from every background and share with them that wonderful message of God's love and forgiveness.

In the past year in this country, there have been almost 4000 incidents of hate and abuse directed at Asian Americans reported to a coalition of Asian American advocacy organizations. Only a fraction of such incidents are reported. That means there were thousands upon thousands of Asians in our country who have been assaulted, bullied, or demeaned. As followers of Jesus who know that Jesus rose from the dead for all people of Asian descent, how can we

stand up against such crimes? What can we do to show that we love our Asian neighbors?

When Pastor Ignacio was painting the gutters at the parsonage, a woman walked by and asked, "When are you going back to Mexico?" Compare that to the countless times that I met a stranger on the street in the Philippines and the person invited me into their home for coffee or a meal. This raises the question of how we can show true hospitality to those whom God has brought to our country. God, who raised Jesus from the dead, calls us to

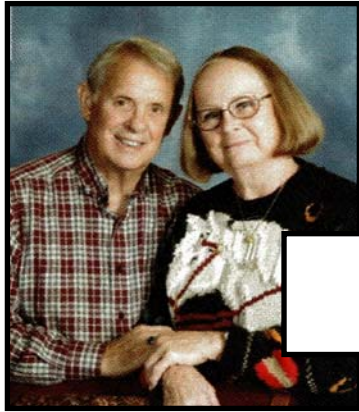
"Love the foreigner."

(Deut. 10:7)

There is no better way to love our foreign guests than to share with them the wonderful news of Jesus' resurrection!

So, how do we share that wonderful resurrection news? People are most open to new ideas when those ideas are shared in the context of loving friendships. I wonder how we can befriend those who are being hated or disparaged by others in our society? What can I do today to love my Asian, Mexican, Black, or Arab neighbor? My prayer is that we will become a community of Jesus' followers that reaches across cultural lines and proclaims the forgiveness of Jesus to all nations!

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



Peace Profiles: Bob Johnson by Michael Mates

At the age of 12, in 1958, Bob Johnson broke ground and helped lay the foundations at the present site of Peace Lutheran Church, and still has some of the soil in a jar. Several years later, he had drifted from his own foundations in the faith, and was a self-confessed sports nut who after Sunday School skipped Church (when he could get away with it) to watch football games. He did take confirmation classes, however, and that was the undoing of his rebellion: a young girl in the class, who loved God and walked straight paths with Him, to Bob's dismay drowned in a river. Bob had always looked up to her as an example, and asked why he had been spared.

That's when he became serious about service to others and to God, and transferred to Concordia Portland for the last three years of high school and two years of junior college. After his freshman year, he changed from the ministerial track to the teaching program, which disappointed several of his professors who had hoped to see him continue to study for the ministry. (In his usual blunt, no-excuses manner, Bob explained: "In the ministerial track, I fell behind in the languages, and once I fell behind, I could never catch up.")

But God, who sees all vocations as ministry, had other plans. Following Portland, Bob transferred to Concordia College in Seward, Nebraska where he completed his teaching degree and graduated in January of 1969. Bob graduated on a Wednesday, drove to Atchison, Kansas on Thursday, and started third and fourth grade on Friday. After five and a half meaningful years in Kansas, he returned to Monroe and became a partner in his parents' bookkeeping business. A year after his father's death, the family sold their business and Bob went into restaurant management. He realized that wasn't his real calling and jumped at a job offer to work at Boeing. Bob spent 37 years there as a Cost Analyst for the Tooling Department until his retirement in 2016. Since returning to Peace Lutheran in 1974, he has served on the boards of Peace, Zion Lutheran School, and Sultan Public Schools, where after eight years of service he received a "humbling and gratifying" standing ovation at his last meeting.

Bob, with his friend Jesse, has also organized Peace Builders, which assists individuals and non-profits with repair projects. Their team once saved a resident \$250 a month, with some rainy-day Pacific Northwest jungle-busting: \$250 was the fee that PUD was going to charge for its meter readers to plow through the blackberry vine jungle surrounding the house. Against Peace Builders, the brambles didn't stand a chance!

And not to forget the classy hand-crafted cars for children, given as Christmas presents to kids through Toys for Tots and Samaritan's Purse. Using his own skills, and expanding production through recruitment and training of others in the ministries of design, woodworking, accessorizing and varnishing, Bob has placed over 300 of these beauties in the hands of grateful kids in the last 14 years.

And, there is the monthly Men's breakfast and dozens of calm daily courtesies.

Thanks, Bob.

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.



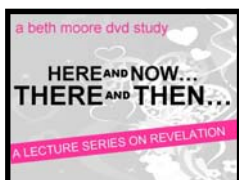
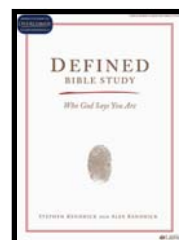
Adult Study

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 Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

Join Cara Fleming for Beth Moore's study, Here and Now.
Books are just \$10.

Leadership Team Highlights

February 2021

Participating on the Leadership Team are Brad Feilberg, John Gose, Kim Green, Michael Mates, Deanna Nowadnick, and Shelley Wallace. 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. We are delighted to know that restrictions are easing a bit.

- Lent and Easter Plans

Plans for Holy Week will include Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship services at Peace. On Easter we will worship with our Hispanic church friends at a special outdoor service. Yes, we will sing! An egg hunt will be held for the children. We'll have fun!

- Parsonage Study Team

Our three-person study team completed their report to the Leadership Team. The parsonage 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. The study team's report included five options: 1) keeping parsonage arrangement as is; 2) keeping parsonage and paying special home ownership "reserve equity" benefit to pastor; 3) keeping parsonage for other ministries and paying housing allowance to pastor to rent or purchase his own home; 4) renting the parsonage and paying housing allowance to pastor to rent or purchase his own home; and 5) selling parsonage and paying housing allowance to pastor to rent or purchase his own home. Study team provided advantages and disadvantages to each.

- Mission Opportunity: One Parish ~ One Prisoner

Chris Hoke, co-founder and executive director for One Parish ~ One Prisoner introduced the OPOP program in which congregations come alongside prisoners re-entering the community. A young man will be released from the Monroe prison this fall and Chris asked Peace to consider building a direct relationship with him and supporting him and his family during his transition. OPOP is part of Underground Ministries and they'll provide training and information, walking with us through the process. The Leadership Team asked to bring OPOP to the congregation to see if broader interest. A small group of 5-7 people would be needed along with congregational support.

- Missions

We continue to pray about other mission opportunities, too. We are interested in serving our community, the region, and the world, being "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"	\$ 795
Thrivent Choice	\$ 198
Total	\$ 993

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
Total	\$10,993

**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 February 2021	\$ 11,838
Given Fiscal YTD (August 2020-February 2021)	\$111,707

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 2/28/2021)

Checking	\$114,232
Savings	\$ 18,885
Endowment	\$ 45,563

Income v. Expenses

Needed in February 2021	\$ 18,842
Given in February 2021	\$ 11,838
Needed Year-to-Date	\$131,896
Given Year-to-Date	\$111,707

Loan Summary

Building Loan (as of 12/07/2020)	\$ 48,311
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Little Doves

Preschool and Kindergarten



- New Sign!
- New Toys
- Neighborhood Fun!



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 4/5

11:45 a.m.

Trail's End, 511 Maple Street, Snohomish

We're baaaaack!

Grab a friend. Bring your neighbor.

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



Engaging God

Engaging Each Other ~ Engaging the World



TIDINGS OF PEACE

Peace Lutheran Church

202 Dickinson Street

Monroe, WA 98272

Address Correction Requested

