

Peacefully Yours



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

By Pastor Kevin Mann

Dear Friends in Christ:

After much discussion and prayer, the elders and I have decided that we should celebrate the Lord's Supper at every regular Sunday and Wednesday worship service. To that end, we plan to begin that practice with the start of the Lenten season (Ash Wednesday is March 5). Since mid-January, my bulletin notes have been focused on the theology, history, and practice of the Lord's Supper. The intention has been to communicate with you concerning this decision and answer questions that may be on your mind concerning the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Below is a collection of those notes, slightly edited for clarity and flow.

Historically, communion was celebrated every week through much of the church's history, though the frequency of the laity partaking has risen and fallen throughout history. During and after the Reformation, Martin Luther and the Lutheran churches continued to practice the weekly celebration of the Lord's Supper.

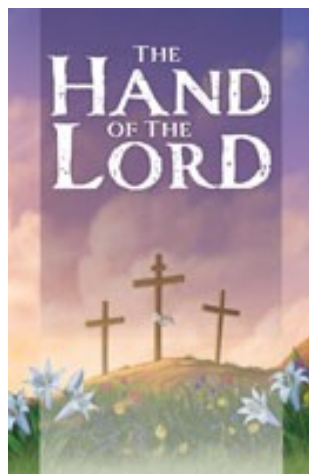
In the late 17th century, the pietistic movement arose within the Lutheran Church and had some effect on most Protestant Churches. Pietism stressed personal piety in relation to faith. Concerning the Lord's Supper, Pietism stressed personal and intensely introspective preparation – you had to prepare in the right way before partaking of the Supper. Frequency of reception of the Supper declined as a result.

Additional movement away from weekly celebration of the Supper was affected by Rationalism in the 18th century and the realities of life in the American frontier when our forebears came to the American lands in the 19th century. "Circuit Riders" – pastors that led services at multiple congregations throughout a month – did not lead service at the same church every week, so communion was not celebrated when the pastor was not present.

All of these factors led to the majority of Lutheran churches in America celebrating the Lord's Supper once a quarter or once a month in the early 20th century. Gradually over the past century, the frequency of the celebration of the Supper has increased. Here at Peace, the frequency has increased over the years, too, and we currently celebrate communion three Sundays (and Wednesdays) each month.

With all that being said, we do not rely on history or tradition as the principal by which we judge the theology and practices of the church. Rather, we hold the Word of God as the primary source of our theology and practice.

In the Word of God, Christ our Lord also instituted the sacraments. Thus, we view the life of the church in light of both Word and Sacrament. Through the Word and Sacraments, the grace of God in Jesus is delivered to us.



- Ash Wed— Mar 5
- Midweek Services
- Mar 12
- Mar 19
- Mar 26
- Apr 2
- Apr 9
- Holy Week
- Sun Apr 13
- Maundy Thurs—Apr 17
- Good Fri—Apr 18
- Easter Sunday—Apr 20

(Continued on page 15)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE By Mike Nowling

“People make plans in their minds, but only the Lord can make them come true. Depend upon the Lord in whatever you do, and your plans will succeed. *Proverbs 16:1-3*”

Plans for Sharing Peace Café

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church has been a strong presence on the South side of Ft. Wayne since it began as a mission church in 1947. The mission statement of Peace is to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to the lost and to provide for the spiritual growth and nurture of our family of believers through education and ministry of the Word and sacraments. The vision of the Sharing Peace Café still fits perfectly with our mission statement by reaching out to our surrounding neighborhood by drawing neighbors into our church building, by inviting them to a safe and cozy space, and by proclaiming God's Word.

Our Café project renovated and modernized the south end of the lower level of the church to create a flexible multipurpose area. The plans were to use the area to accommodate a coffeehouse, a meeting space, a wellness room, and a youth area. Many members of Peace were instrumental in a variety of committees that led to construction plans and funding by raising \$323,433 in pledges and in applying and receiving a grant from the Lutheran Foundation for \$256,383. The combined effort and funding made it possible to improve our building and property greatly.

The Sharing Peace Café has provided a meeting place for many diversified activities and many fellowship gatherings such as: a place for members and outside groups, Youth Group, artists, musicians, a polling place for elections, fitness classes, receptions, and celebrations. Also, the Café has made opportunities available for educational programs such as: GriefShare classes, End of Life Planning classes, Partners in Prayer, Bible study groups, and Preschool parental involvement gatherings. God has blessed Peace with many positive events that have promoted fellowship and outreach.

Recently we dedicated of the new Pergola in memory of Pastor Paul Spira to add more space and be even more visible for outside gatherings. It was Pastor Spira's vision and passion to improve our Christian outreach possibilities into our south side neighborhood.

In many ways, the Sharing Peace Café has been successful in promoting the fellowship that we have with one another as members of the body of Christ. The question is, where do we go from here? We have many members who are still passionate about this mission and want to see the Sharing Peace Cafe continue into the future. Our challenge is that we have not been able to consistently make enough money in the Café to break even each month. Special gifts and contributions have allowed us to break even at the end of each financial year.

We are at the crossroads. The Board of Directors has discussed this challenge and a Sharing Peace Café committee (Jerry Branstrator, Todd Hollman, Rose Murphy, Dick Rutkowski, Caryl Spira, Pastor Mann, and Mike Nowling) has been formed to discuss future plans. The committee has approved the hiring of Ashleigh Ellson to be the Lead Sharista/Café Manager. She has many skills and positive plans for the café. Jerry Branstrator has developed café goals and business financial plans. The business plan will give us a positive direction for taking the Sharing Peace Café into the future. The plan will be explained in early March.

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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A New Manager for Sharing Peace Café by Jerry Branstrator

What follows is the timeline of discussions and meetings which ended in the decision to support our Sharing Peace Café (SPC) with the hiring of a new cafe manager.

- July '24 - Rose announced her retirement
- September '24 – President, Mike Nowling began to assemble an advisory team to discuss the future of SPC in the absence of Rose.
- October '24 – Informal discussions took place between members of the Church Board of Directors and Board of Elders.
- November '24 – A SPC Advisory Committee (AC) was formed and had its first meeting. In that meeting there was one topic that occupied 100% of our time: can we afford to hire a qualified manager for the café? Arriving upon an estimate of the financial commitment that would be forced upon ourselves and our fellow parishioners, a unanimous decision was made that we should move ahead and support the SPC by hiring a manager. Other approaches to running the café were discussed but dismissed as inappropriate and most likely to fail.
- December '24 – The AC met several times to discuss and assemble job descriptions, marketing plans, appropriate pay levels, techniques to acquire managerial candidates, financial needs and other topics related to keeping SPC, not only alive, but building it into a self-supporting business.
- January '25, AC meeting 1 – It was agreed that an ad for a Café Manager was to be placed on the internet site “Indeed”. Within two weeks we had looked at over 80 applicants and narrowed it down to two.
- January '25 meeting 2 – A candidate was chosen and interviews were scheduled.
- January '25 BOD meeting – Church board members approved the newly established pay level for a manager, the AC’s choice for manager and the increased pay for our Sharistas.
- January '25 meeting 3 – Results from two different interviews were presented and the committee was unanimous in moving to offer Ashleigh Ellson the position as our next SPC manager.

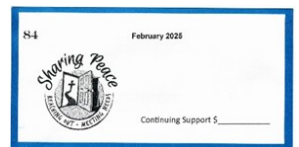
To stabilize our Sharing Peace Café (SPC) and assure that the mission will continue to succeed and grow into the future, a substantial investment will need to be made over the next two years. A full-time manager must be hired and Sharista pay must be elevated to a respectable and desirable level. A plan to increase our sales will be implemented that combines expanding our hours, adding new product offerings and aggressively marketing our improvements.

A pro-forma analysis has been made resulting in a prediction of donations needed over the next 24 months. The amounts are listed below:

2025: March, April, May, June.....	\$2000 each, total of \$8000
July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec	\$1500 each, total of \$9000
2026: Jan, Feb, Mar, April	\$1500 each, total of \$6000
May, June, July, Aug	\$1000 each, total of \$4000
Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec	\$500 each, total of \$2000

Please note that as time passes and sales increase, less and less in donations will be needed. At the end of 2026 the Café is predicted to be at or above a “break-even” point. From that point on the Café will be self-sufficient and need little or no additional donations, or support from the church budget.

Your box of 2025 Offering Envelopes contains an envelope labeled “Sharing Peace” located before the 2nd Sunday envelope of each month. These envelopes can be used at any time to contribute to the Sharing Peace Fund. If you prefer not to use these envelopes, just note “Sharing Peace” with your contribution. On-line giving is also possible via your bank’s bill pay feature or via Zelle.



Thank you for supporting this mission and helping to preserve our wonderful Café.

SHARING PEACE CAFÉ

By Rose Murphy, Café Ministry



Sharing Peace Café Hours

Monday - Thursday
8:00am to 1:00pm

Friday - Saturday
CLOSED

Sunday
8:30 - 11am

Closed
Easter Sunday

SHARING PEACE CAFÉ

Welcome our New Café Manager! Ashleigh Ellson will begin working in the Café on Monday, March 3 and we are so happy to have her here! See more information about Ashleigh in another article in this issue of the Peacefully Yours.

Cards & Games in the Café Come to the Café on the 2nd & 4th Mondays each month from 1-3pm. This group is for anyone who likes playing Euchre and/or other games while enjoying some friendly competition, tasty snacks and great fellowship! Come a little early to purchase your favorite drink offerings from the Café. Bring a friend!

Sharing Peace Art Gallery: The Café Gallery will feature paintings by local artist Crimson Rose during the months of March and April. Visit the Café to admire her beautiful artwork. All pieces are available for purchase in the form of cash or check (made payable to artist).

Diaper Drive: Thank You to all who donated diapers for the January Diaper Drive. Janna from The Shepherd's Hand reported that over 37,000 diapers were given out in January to those in need in the community.



GriefShare

Peace will host and lead another 13-week GriefShare Support Group on Thursdays from 6-8pm beginning April 10 through July 3. If you or someone you know is grieving the loss of a loved one and would like to attend these meetings, please register at grieshare.org/groups/257771

YOUTH

By Rose Murphy

YOUTH FUNDRAISERS

SAVE IT or SHAVE IT!

Starting Sunday, April 13, there will be boxes in the Narthex for you to Vote for Team Save It or Team Shave It! Pastor Mann has graciously agreed to risk shaving his facial hair in order to raise funds for the youth to attend the National Youth Gathering. If you really want to see Pastor shave, place your donation in the Shave It box (highly recommended). If you think he should keep his beard and moustache, place your donation in the Save It box! We'll count the donations in each box on Sunday, May 18. If there are more Shave It donations, we will trek down to the Fellowship Hall and watch as Pastor shaves! If Save It donations win, well, then we'll be sure to have plenty of tissues to go around!



Valentine's Sweet Sale

Thank You! to everyone who supported the youth by making and purchasing homemade treats for the Valentine's Sweet Sale! The proceeds from the sale at church on Feb 9 and in the Café afterward brought in over \$600! These monies will benefit the youth who will be attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July.

SHARING PEACE COMMITTEE NEWS



The Sharing Peace Café Committee, made up of Jerry Branstrator, Rose Murphy, Todd Hollman, Dick Rutkowski, Caryl Spira, Pastor Mann, and Mike Nowling are happy to introduce Ashleigh Ellson, who will be starting in March as the new Lead Sharista/Manager for the Sharing Peace Café. Ashleigh has a Bachelor’s Degree from Anderson University in Spanish (graduated Magna Cum Laude) and is planning to finish Master’s degree in Social work from Indiana Wesleyan University in December, 2026. She has several years of working experience at Starbucks as a Barista. Also, she has worked as a Youth Director at Grace Summit Church and has valuable experience in social work.

Ashleigh stated that she is a person of faith who is passionate about worship and missions. She has a desire to create safe spaces for people to be themselves and experience the love of God. She loves coffee and the way it naturally creates community and she is excited to see how the Lord uses the Sharing Peace Café to invite people to a place that draws them nearer to God who loves them more than they could possibly imagine.

We are very excited to add Ashleigh to our Sharing Peace Café staff and wish her much success and joy in this new job opportunity.

Welcome Ashleigh!

PEACE LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

By Barbara Bradtmueller, Preschool Director



Our Mission

Peace Lutheran Preschool exists to reach out with the Gospel and love of Jesus to young children and families in our congregation and community by providing excellence in early childhood education.

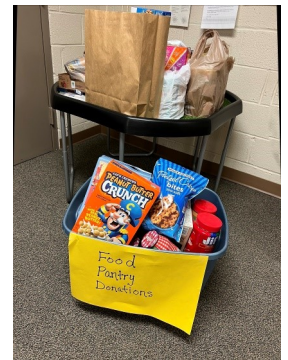
Our preschool is such a blessing to our preschool children and their families. The teachers continue to teach them about Jesus and His love in so many ways. We continue to focus on the Fruit of the Spirit with March sharing Faithfulness and April sharing Gentleness. Faithfulness is a perfect fruit for March as we begin the Lenten season. The children will learn about Daniel in the Lion’s Den, David and Goliath, David and Jonathan. For April’s Gentleness we will focus on Psalm 23 and the Good Shepherd.

Since January/February’s focus was Kindness & Goodness, the preschool families brought in items for Peace’s Food Pantry. The generous donations should be very helpful to families in need in this area.

The preschool will be hosting the Lenten dinner on Wednesday, March 12 as a fundraiser and fun dinner for the preschool children and their families. We encourage the Prayer Angels to attend and share a wonderful homemade lasagna meal together with these families. We ask everyone to come support our preschool!

The preschool will also be preparing for parent/teacher conferences, enrollment for the fall classes, and an early childhood conference in April.

Please continue to pray for the preschool, the staff, and these special children and their families. God bless you all!



Each year, we generously open our hearts to support A Hope Center through their **Baby Bottle Campaign**. We are again participating this year. Baby bottles are available in the narthex. Fill them with loose change, bills, or checks (Payable to A Hope Center) and return them to the church by Sunday, March 16.





WinGS WOMEN IN GOD'S SERVICE by Lizzy Hoham

Women in God's Service met on February 1 for a time of fellowship and brainstorming! Our next event is coordinating the first Lenten dinner on Ash Wednesday, March 5 - a chili cookoff!

Sign up to bring a pot of your favorite chili or other fixings and desserts. We will do a blind vote to pick the favorite! Krista Koch is making a giant roaster of "regular chili" so everyone can enjoy supper while also testing out other versions. We have a Thrivent Action Grant to pay for supplies and meat. Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered! A freewill offering will be taken to support WinGS causes!



Sign up to RSVP or volunteer/cook in the narthex or

at <https://forms.gle/R7qDTcHqsQmqY86n7>

We will meet again for devotion, fellowship, and planning on April 12 at 10am (the first Saturday 4/5 is during spring break). All women of Peace are welcome to join us!

QR Code to RSVP for Chili Cookoff - open the camera app on your phone and a link should pop up to go to your browser. A google form will open up.

Peace Lutheran Church

CHILI COOK OFF

ASH WED MARCH 5

5:15-6:15PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL
WORSHIP SERVICE AT 6:30

Enjoy chili & fixins!

Enter your favorite chili for blind taste testing

Freewill offering

Sign up in the narthex, cafe, or online -->

Sharing Peace
OFF
A Thrivent Action Grant

4900 Fairfield Ave FW 46807

SPECIAL THANKS

Special Thanks to Men at Peace (MAP), for donating their time, hard work and fellowship to clean the Peace Kitchen on Feb 22. Workers were Mart Erickson, Ken Heingartner, Chuck Miller, Matthew Paetz, and Dennis Wheeler. They moved a lot of supplies & items out of the kitchen and cleaned the walls, windows, exhaust hood, sinks, counters and floors. 4 hours of hard work and fellowship.

Note: if you use the kitchen for any reason please be responsible and clean up after you are done.



PARISH HEALTH and WELLNESS

By Cheryl Erickson, RN, FNP-BC

Jesus once said, "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good deeds and praise your heavenly Father"

(Matthew 5:16).

I found this in my files and wish I could give credit to whoever wrote it but I could not find the original author in my search on the internet. The story spoke to me and I hope it will to you as well.

Carrot, egg, or coffee bean?

Sometimes troubles of one sort seem to overwhelm us. They can even challenge us to wonder about the value of our life. A young woman once told her mother that life was so hard for her and she wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as if when one problem was solved, a new one arose.

Her mother took her into the kitchen, and placed three saucepans with water on the stove, and brought them to the boil. She placed a carrot in the first, an egg in the second, and some ground coffee beans in the last. After about 20 minutes she took the saucepans off the stove and placed their contents in three separate bowls. She asked her daughter, "What do you see?" "A carrot, and an egg and some coffee", the daughter replied.

The mother asked the young woman to feel the carrot and she noted that it was soft. The mother then asked the daughter to break the egg. She did, and noted how the egg inside the shell had become hard. Finally, the mother asked the daughter to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled as she smelled its rich aroma and tasted its full flavor. Then she asked her mother what this meant.

Her mother explained that these objects had each faced the same 'adversity' — boiling water — and each had reacted differently. The carrot went in strong and hard, and came out softened and weak. The liquid egg had gone in fragile, protected only by its shell, and had come out hardened. The ground coffee beans, however, were unique. Instead of being changed by the boiling water, they had changed the water.

"Which one will you be?" the mother asked the daughter, "A carrot, or an egg or a coffee bean?"

How do you handle adversity ... the tough times in your life! Are you like a carrot that becomes soft and loses its strength when the going gets tough? Are you like an egg that starts with a soft heart, but becomes hard on the inside? Or are you like a coffee bean that actually changes the hot water, the very thing that brings the pain?

When the hour is darkest and adversities are their greatest, then our faith in God can carry us through. It reminds us that we don't have to face adversity alone. Our all-powerful God is with us in every situation we face ... and life is worth living!

There is a bonus in us remembering this, not only for ourselves, but also for others. People will be curious about the God who helps us to be like a coffee bean, and allow the fragrance and flavor of our faith to fill our every circumstance.



Second Wednesday
and
Third Sunday
each month
before and after
Church

Parish Nurse Office Hours:

10-11:30am

March 21 and 28 & April 11 and 18

For immediate assistance with health-related questions, call
Cheryl at 260-341-8215

Parish Nurse Email is Parishnurse@peacelutheranfw.org

Midweek Lenten Services: The Hand of the Lord

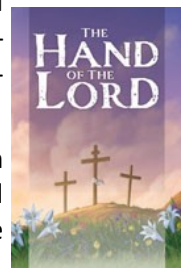
Whether tightening a bolt, crocheting, or typing on a computer, there is so much that we do with our hands. The Greek physician Galen called them *the instrument of instruments*. Indeed, hands are instruments that can do a great deal of things. Hands can be used to heal or hurt, work or wreck, build or break, seize or surrender, and on and on. Hands are so often central to the ways we interact with the world that they have also become figurative symbols of power, control, craftsmanship, and possession. We daily speak of hands in many phrases, such as “Lend a hand,” “Things are out of hand,” “Working together hand in glove,” and “Close at hand.” Moreover, in our modern era of robotic, machine, and computer processing, adding “hand” as a prefix to many words can often communicate something that is personal and intentional. Labeling something as handpicked, handwritten, or handmade adds a personal touch and significance. Our Creator has bestowed on us these amazing instruments.

It is no surprise that mentions of hands appear all over the Bible as God’s Word speaks to us in ways that we can understand. All things are the work of the hand of the Lord (Psalm 102:25). The Lord’s hand is referred to over two hundred times in the Old Testament. The Lord’s hand is active in creation, power, control over happenings of the world, judgment, and salvation. The hand of the Lord was upon Ezekiel when He gave him a vision (Ezekiel 3:22), and the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines in the days of Samuel (1 Samuel 7:13). The hand of the Lord is both Law and Gospel.

Perhaps surprisingly, specific references to the “hand of the Lord” are not all that frequent in the New Testament. However, it is precisely in the New Testament where the hand of the Lord takes on literal meaning. The One through whom all things were created took on real, literal hands in His incarnation (John 1:1–14). We have several examples throughout Scripture that speak of the way that Christ used His hands alongside His life-giving words to bring forgiveness, life, and salvation. The work of Christ’s hands helps us to see the merciful and personal way that He has condescended to us. He has given us something to grasp, even as He holds us. Jesus used His hands to save drowning Peter, to feed the multitudes, to touch those who were unclean, to stop a funeral procession in its tracks, to lift up Jairus’s daughter, and to bless the children. The hand of the Lord has come to us in Jesus.

On the other hand, the literal and figurative actions of mere human hands in the Bible are often the means of our own sin. After all, our own Lord was “delivered into the hands of men” (Luke 9:44). However, on a greater level, we know that it was the hand of the Lord at work all along, most especially in His crucifixion. Christ laid down His life of His own authority as He allowed Himself to be delivered into the hands of sinful men (John 10:18). His hands were pierced for the sins of the world. His hands rested on Holy Saturday. Yet, on the third day, He rose again. He now holds us in His hands, and no one can snatch us from His hand (John 10:28). Our Lord has hands, real hands. Jesus has accomplished all that we need. Amazingly, He takes our manipulative, distorted, self-serving hands and restores them into useful hands for His purposes, both to literally use them in service and to make our whole lives into His instruments of witness, service, and praise.

Throughout the Lenten season, we will focus on these hands of Christ Jesus in our midweek Lenten and Holy Week services. Join us for services on Lent Wednesdays (March 5, 12, 19, 26; April 2, 9) and Holy Week (Thursday and Friday, April 17, 18) at 6:30 as we rejoice in the work of the hand of the Lord.



Easter Services and Breakfast

Easter is Sunday, April 20. We have adjusted the service schedule for this year. We will be having one Easter service at 9:00am. The Easter Breakfast will be held after the service in the Fellowship Hall.

Easter Lilies for the Altar

Lilies for Easter will be available again this year. A sign up sheet will be in the Narthex as soon as the price has been determined. Please sign up in the Narthex as there will be a limited number available.

Lenten Suppers

Join us for this year’s Lenten Suppers! We’re trying a few new ideas including a Chili-Cook Off, a PreSchool Fundraising dinner inviting our PreSchool Families, and a dinner hosted by the Youth Group as they continue to raise funds for the National Youth Gathering.

Please join us for delicious food, fellowship, and some fundraising! Check out the menu. We have some new items plus perennial favorites.

Thank you to all of the cooks who have already volunteered to make the entrées. Thank you to those who will help round out all the meals as we recruit additional volunteers. We will utilize Thrivent Action grants to help off-set the high cost of food, maximize fundraising, and make meals affordable for all through a Free Will Donation. Dinners begin at 5:15pm in Fellowship Hall; Church service at 6:30pm.



Peace Lutheran Church
CHILI COOK OFF – FOOD
ASH WED MARCH 5 5:15-6:15PM
PLEASE SIGN UP BY FEB 26

Chili Donations - please bring to fellowship hall no later than 5pm
 *Thrivent Card to offset meat - mark how much and what you need - Lizzy Hoham will be in touch for pickup!

Name & Phone #	Chili Name & Meat/Lb if needed; food
Krista Koch	"Big Plain Chili" - Costco hamburger 5lb x2
Lois Branstrator	Chicken Chili - Costco rotisserie chicken x2
Danielle Ramsey	Veggie Chili
Myrtle Dashiell	Chipotle Chicken Chili - 4 lb chicken breast
Mike Murphy	Mike's Chili
Ann White	Gluten free corn bread
Sara Saylor	oyster crackers, corn chips
Cheryl Erickson	Broccoli Salad
Myrtle Dashiell	Corn bread muffins
Teresa Bower	Salad

3/19/2025

Chicken & Noodle soup (by Elaine King)
 Sides & Beverages
 Carrot Cake (by Elaine King)
 (PB&J sandwiches available)

3/26/2025

Chicken Spaghetti (by Pam Lehman)
 Sides, Dessert, Beverages
 (PB&J sandwiches available)

4/2/2025

Baked Potato Bar (by Cheryl & Mart Erickson) with all the fixings!
 Sides, Dessert, Beverages
 (PB&J sandwiches available)

4/9/2025 Youth Group Fundraiser

Hosted by Youth Group
 Homemade Beef Stew (by Mike Murphy)
 Homemade bread, Sides, Dessert, Beverages
 (PB&J sandwiches available)

3/5/2025 Ash Wednesday

Chili Cook-Off

Hosted by WinGS
 Chili and all the fixings!
 Sides, Dessert, Beverages
 (PB&J sandwiches available)

3/12/2025 PreSchool Fundraiser

Hosted by the PreSchool inviting PreSchool families
 Homemade Lasagna (by Ann White) plus a Gluten-Free option
 Casa-Style Salad
 Breadsticks
 Gluten-Free Homemade Bread
 Fruit, Dessert, Beverages
 (PB&J sandwiches available)

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY by Lizzy Hoham

In November, I attended a breakout session at the Lutheran Educators Conference at the Grand Wayne Center with hundreds of other Lutheran teachers and principals from Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio. A preschool director and family ministry director from Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church in Brighton, MI, shared their success in working with the **Concordia Center for the Family** to build a milestone ministry. Shepherd of the Lakes had similar issues that we have at Peace: their preschool has many non-member families who attend various movie nights and fundraisers, but never seem to begin attending and joining the church. They shifted from using a "programming" model - if we host it and provide pizza, they will come - to a **faith milestone model**. Their first successful event was a baptism class led by the pastor and the director; the church's quilting group created "prayer pillows" with a pocket for a personalized "prayer book" that the preschool families put together during this multi-generational class. During worship, families brought their prayer pillows up and received a "blessing of the prayer pillows." This tangible, family-centered outreach intentionally taught and modeled the importance of prayer, and several families began to attend after this service. Peace's Friendship Sunday we hosted in October with a multi-generational Bible class fits into this family discipleship model, so we are headed in the right direction!

The Concordia Center for the Family is a Registered Service Organization of the LCMS located in Ann Arbor, MI. Pastor Todd Biermann is their executive director, and he shared with me how they partner with congregations to build and develop this type of intentional ministry to connect families of all seasons, from singles and young married to college students to seniors and grandparents. They have two main outreaches: the Faith and Life Survey, and Family Discipleship Training.

The **Faith and Life Survey** is an online survey developed for congregations to identify what is working well in your congregation, what areas are worthy of discussion and attention, and what issues need to be addressed. It helps guide vision and decision-making for us as a congregation at Peace to figure out where God wants us to go! CCF also offers a four-day in-person training for **Family Discipleship**. This training is being held at the Fort Wayne seminary on May 12-15. Peace applied for a Board of Directors grant through **The Lutheran Foundation** to help fund both of these initiatives. Right now we are planning to send Pastor Mann and two other champions to this training, and are figuring out when would be a good time to prep and open the congregational survey. I am excited at the possibility of taking all the talent and drive we have at Peace and partnering with an RSO that has a proven track record of implementing all the things we have tried to do in the past but have sometimes lacked a way to pull all the different pieces together.

It feels like we are at a time of transition at Peace with Rose Murphy's retirement and the opportunities God provides us with the preschool and LSUS, especially with the many new families moving into our immediate neighborhoods. Please pray for this initiative and ask how God might want you to be involved, maybe as part of this Family Discipleship training, as a champion on the survey, or in the many other ways that God will guide us through this initiative.

For more information, check out their website at:

<https://concordiacenterforthefamily.org> and click the "Services" drop down menu.



Missed a service? Have a question about an announcement? You can find a written copy of the service and announcements on our website at www.peacelutheranfw.org. Click on the "Media" tab and then "Worship Service Bulletin". You will see the most recent Sunday and Wednesday bulletins as well as announcements.

LUTHERAN SOUTH UNITY SCHOOL NEWS

Lutheran South Unity School has had a crazy winter! Construction continues on the electrical and HVAC updates which will eventually lead to consistent heating and air conditioning in each classroom. The boiler went out several times when winter began, resulting in several unexpected days off. While the kids had fun, it has made for a challenging winter for teachers. As a compromise the building has several construction heaters going; everyone is practicing their flexibility with classroom switches, extra blankets, and waiting for spring. Our first kindergarten round-up event was held in January, and the next on is March 6 from 6-7 PM.

Unfortunately the SGO fundraiser "Rockin' My Salvation" set to take place February 22 is postponed. Stay tuned for a rescheduled date.



Rockin' My Salvation

Dinner Benefits
Lutheran South Unity School

POSTPONED

Feb. 22, 2025
Quimby Hall
1502 Bluffton Rd

Save the Date!



WELCOME
Kindergarten Roundup

Lutheran South Unity School
March 6th, 2025
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm



- What to Expect: Children welcome to come!
- Kindergarten Scavenger Hunt
 - Tour of the building
 - Learn about the program
 - Meet the teachers and principal



We are looking forward to hearing from your family!
Register with the QR code or call the office.
260-744-0459



OPEN ENROLLMENT 2025- 2026

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS LOOKING FOR A GREAT SCHOOL?

LUTHERAN SOUTH UNITY SCHOOL WOULD LOVE TO SHARE OUR CHRIST-CENTERED SCHOOL WITH YOU.

TOURS ARE AVAILABLE SO WE CAN SHARE HOW OUR SCHOOL CAN BENEFIT YOUR CHILD.

CONTACT BARB JOHNSON -- ADMISSIONS
BJOHNSON@LSUSFW.ORG
260-744-0459

RE-ENROLLMENT FOR CURRENT LSUS FAMILIES IS ON FAST DIRECT NOW.



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Concordia Lutheran High School Choir Tour, March 11 - 17

Our premiere concert choir, the 42-voice, A Cappella Choir will be on their annual tour from March 11th to March 17th. Their theme, Breath of Life, focuses on the Creation account from Genesis 1 and 2 and work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of God's people. They will be going as far west as Norfolk, Nebraska with stops in La Porte, Indiana, Urbandale, Iowa, Omaha, Nebraska, and Lincoln, Nebraska. They plan on spending a day at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, which was ranked #1 in the nation by USA Today 2, years in a row. The Choir will also spend a morning participating in escape rooms as a group. The A Cappella Choir exists to honor God and proclaim the love of Christ in song. By striving to perform choral music at the highest artistic level, the singers desire to give back to God a small portion of the gifts He gives, the most important of which being the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. The Tour is their opportunity to take this message on the road! Their return home performance will be at the Kramer Chapel on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne. All concerts are free to attend. Please see the tour itinerary below.



March 11 | 6:30 CST - St. John's Lutheran Church - La Porte, IN
 March 12 | 6:15 CST - Gloria Dei Lutheran Church - Urbandale, IA
 March 13 | 7:00 CST - Faith Lutheran Church - Lincoln, NE
 March 14 | 7:00 CST - Our Savior Lutheran Church - Norfolk, NE
 March 15 | 6:00 CST - Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church - Omaha, NE
March 17 | 7:00 EST - Kramer Chapel, CTSFW - Fort Wayne, IN

Experience the Cadet Life at Our Twilight Tour at Concordia Lutheran High School! Have you ever wondered why our students love it here? Come see for yourself at our Twilight Tour on Tuesday, March 11th, at 6:00 PM! This special evening event is a perfect opportunity for families who may not be able to visit during regular Admissions Office hours. Take a guided tour, learn more about the Christ-centered education, application process, tuition calculator estimator, and vibrant student life at CLHS. We'd love to show you what makes Concordia such a special place! Register today at go.clhscadets.com/twilight

CLHS Fine Arts Festival and Food Trucks, March 23, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Come join us for art, food and fun as we see the best of our Lutheran school student's creative endeavors at the Concordia Lutheran High School Fine Arts Festival! Enjoy treats from three food trucks including Whip & Chill, Another One Bites the Crust, and Big Eyed Fish. Come inside and peruse student artwork and fine arts projects. You'll also be treated to a concert by multiple Lutheran school choirs, bands and orchestras. Concordia colleges will also be on site for a Concordia University Fair! The festival will end in a fine art awards ceremony. We'll see you there!

EXERCISE CLASS SCHEDULE

Classes are held in the Wellness Room below the stairs. Enter door #3 from the parking lot. No previous experience necessary. Everyone is welcome for fun, fitness, and fellowship. \$5 per class session, except yoga with Tara is \$10.



- Chair Yoga: Monday (on hold)
- CardioTone: Tuesday - 9am / 1st & 3rd Thursday - 10am / 2nd & 4th Friday, 9am
- Yoga with Tara: Saturday, 11am (no class April 5)
- Latin Fitness Dance (formerly Zumba): Thursday, 9am

No previous experience necessary.

For the Record

Giving and Attendance

Jan 5 through Feb 23, 2025

contributions and attendance were as follows:

Jan 5/8	\$1,574.00	50/13
Jan 12/15	\$6,525.00	85/9
Jan 19/22	\$15,350.00	65/na
Jan 26/29	\$11,730.00	65/11
Feb 2/5	\$6,705.00	65/8
Feb 9/12	\$5,405.00	70/na
Feb 16/19	\$14,110.00	48
Feb 23/26	\$8,483.00	38

Budgeted Work Program

2025 Budgeted Expenses	\$ 341,138
Weekly 2025:	\$ 6,560

Soul Accounting

Member Change

Ivy Harkenrider—transfer to Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Thanks to **thrivent** and its clients, Peace has received \$1,484 in 2024 and \$587 so far this year from Choice Dollars. Eligible Thrivent clients can recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable outreach funds by directing Choice Dollars. If you are a Thrivent client, be sure to check what funds are available for you to direct to Peace. You have until March 31 to direct your eligible Choice Dollars from 2024.

Kroger Earnings

Kroger encourages our members to link their rewards card to Peace. "Community Rewards" is easy to use and the more we shop with Kroger, the more money we will earn!

Our earnings from 10/1/24—12/31/24 were \$41.61

MESSAGE FROM LCMS FOUNDATION by Mark Muehl

A person wishes to go on a European vacation. However, they have delayed planning many times. Maybe there will be a better rate? Who knows when the best weather will be? What if my health takes a turn and I am not able to go? The bliss of vacation will never happen if you continue living in paralysis of the unknown.

That same kind of paralysis can keep the Lord's people from putting estate plans in place and carrying out faithful stewardship of God's gifts. In the barrage of "what if's", we choose to do nothing. If that procrastination lasts long enough, we may choose to do nothing, expecting that our children will take care of things after the Lord calls us home. The trouble is, we may not have communicated our wishes to our children clearly or they may not share the same priorities. God has made us stewards of His things and it is our job to put a plan in writing that faithfully guides how financial assets should be handled through our estate. We don't let fear of the imperfect keep us from acting.

Certainly, in estate plans, there are many things that can change over time. Family can grow. Financial assets can grow. Ministries can close and new ones can open. An estate plan needs to be nimble to be effective. It is wise to see the need to review an estate plan and update it every 5-7 years. Yet the prospect of those changes should not keep us from setting up a plan that covers the needs of today. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you consider what you need to have in place today. Contact Mark Muehl at 260.241.4845 or mark.muehl@lfn.org



Pastor Kevin Mann 5
 Patricia Easterday 10
 Herbt Koenig..... 12
 Gene Koch 14
 Spencer Strasen..... 15
 Connor Gastineau..... 16
 Adam Koch..... 19
 Jerry Branstrator..... 23
 Sally Brandon..... 24
 Vicki Beeks..... 27
 Chuck Miller..... 27
 Chris Till 29

Olivia Slattery5
 Aniyah Wilson7
 Melina Garner10
 Joan Thompson10
 Ted Hoham11
 James Uffelman.....12
 Jillian Gatchell-Ward16
 Elyse Brinneman.....17
 Gideon Hapner18
 Maliciah Garner.....21
 Sarah Brandon.....23
 Peter Hoham28
 Emily Till28

ALTAR FLOWERS



If you would like to donate altar flowers for any week(s) in 2025, add your name to the flower chart for the appropriate date(s). The new calendar will appear on the bulletin board across from the office in November.

Cost of the flowers is \$30 and you can take them home after the Sunday service. Payment envelopes are under the chart and can be put in the collection plate.

Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate. – *Mark 10:9*



none



Bob and Erin Floyd4/7
 Jay and Sally Brandon4/24

PASTOR'S MESSAGE *(Continued from page 1)*

In the Lord's Supper, the very body and blood of Jesus is given to us. In his body and blood, we receive the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. These things come to us because Jesus has secured them for us through his own sacrificial death and resurrection. The body sacrificed on the cross and the blood poured out from his pierced side are delivered to us through the bread and wine of the Supper.

Additionally, in the Sacraments, we are united with Jesus. In Baptism, we are united to Jesus' death and resurrection (see Romans 6). In the Lord's Supper, we receive the true body and blood of Jesus under the bread and wine. That is, we take into our own bodies the body and blood of Jesus through their mysterious sacramental union with the elements of bread and wine (see 1 Corinthians 10:14-16).

In the Supper, we are also united in faith to all those who partake with us. This meal is the highest expression of our fellowship together as brothers and sisters in Christ. As we gather for worship, we are bound together by the common confession of our faith in the Creed, we unite our voices together in prayer, in praise, and in song. We also come together in this meal where all by faith receive the very same gifts from Jesus: forgiveness, life, and salvation.

As we begin the weekly celebration of the Supper, there may be some questions raised about our current use of services and how that might be impacted by serving communion each week.

We currently utilize Creative Worship (published by Concordia Publishing House [CPH]) and Matins for non-communion services. We use these as our liturgy about eight times per year. We intend to continue to use Matins and Creative Worship and add communion to those services.

The Creative Worship services released by CPH already include communion in the service. We have edited that part out for many years. We will include the communion portions for future services, making edits to the overall format of the service as needed, as we currently do.

Matins is, in its original use, a non-communion liturgy. However, it is not difficult to add communion liturgy to the service in an appropriate place. We already have added Confession and Absolution to the Matins liturgy for our use in church. With the addition of Communion, we may need to make some other adjustments as we figure out the best flow of the service.

There are certainly other practical considerations we will need to address as we move forward with communion in every Sunday and Wednesday service.

If you have any specific questions about this decision or our practice of the weekly celebration of the Supper, please let me know or speak to the one of the elders.

Your servant in Christ, *Pastor Kevin Mann*

Easter Breakfast

Join us for a delicious **Easter Breakfast**, prepared and served by our Elders and the Men at Peace, Breakfast will be served following the 9:00am Worship Service and the menu includes: scrambled eggs, pancakes, fresh baked pastries (by Mike), fresh fruit salad, coffee and orange juice. **To ensure that we have enough food for everyone, we ask that you sign up on the sheet located in the narthex.**





4900 Fairfield Ave.
Fort Wayne, IN 46807

Phone: 260-744-3869
www.PeaceLutheranFW.org

Return Service Requested

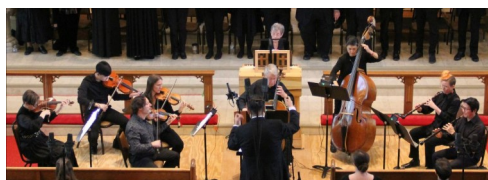
Mission

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church exists to reach the lost and to provide for spiritual growth and nurture of our family of believers through education and ministry of Word and Sacraments.



KOJI OTSUKI, Artistic Director

<https://bachcollegium.org/concert/>



Concert III: Word and Sacrament
Sunday, April 27, 2025 at 4 pm
Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Ft. Wayne

Sarah Shafer, *soprano*

Ashlee Bickley, *mezzo-soprano*

Mark Vogel, *tenor*

Edward Vogel, *baritone*

J.S. Bach: *Wer da gläubet und getauft wird*, BWV 37

J.S. Bach: *Alles nur nach Gottes Willen*, BWV 72

U.W.v. Wassenauer: *Concerto armonico III in A major*
[instrumental]

M. Duruflé: *Tantum ergo*, Op. 10, No. 4 [a cappella]

T. Kverno: *Corpus Christi Carol* [a cappella]

J.S. Bach: *Mein liebster Jesu ist verloren*, BWV 154





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 11:00am Yoga w/Tara
2 The Transfiguration of Our Lord celebrated 9:00am Worship with Communion 10:30am SPC Committee Report	3 Chair Yoga is on hold due to Jan's surgery. Stay tuned for her return date. 3:30pm Board of Elders	4 Bulletin Items Due 9:00am Cardio Tone Small Group Bible Study 1:00pm 3:30pm Board of Worship	5 ASH WEDNESDAY BP Screenings 5:15pm-WinGS Chili Cook Off 6:30pm Worship with Communion	6 9:00am Latin Fitness Dance 10am Cardio Tone 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	7 10:00-11:30am Parish Nurse Is In No Chair Yoga	8 11:00am Yoga with Tara
9 9:00am Worship with Communion 10:30am Education Hour	10 NO Chair Yoga 1:00-3:00pm Cards & Games in the Café	11 Bulletin Items Due 9:00am Cardio Tone	12 BP Screening 5:15pm Preschool Fundraiser Lenten Supper 6:30pm Worship with Communion	13 9:00am Latin Fitness Dance 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	14 9:00am Cardio Tone No Chair Yoga	15 Men At Peace 9:00am 11:00am Yoga with Tara
16 Return Baby Bottles BP Screening 9:00am Worship with Communion 10:30am Education Hour	17 NO Chair Yoga	18 Bulletin Items Due 9:00am Cardio Tone 6:30pm Board of Directors	19 5:15pm- Lenten Supper 6:30pm Worship Service with Communion	20 9:00am Latin Fitness Dance 10am Cardio Tone 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	21 10:00-11:30am Parish Nurse Is In No Chair Yoga	22 11:00pm Yoga with Tara
23 9:00am Worship with Communion 10:30am Education Hour	24 No Chair Yoga 1:00-3:00pm Cards & Games in the Café 7:00pm Board of Christian Ed	25 Bulletin Items Due 9:00am Cardio Tone	26 5:15pm- Lenten Supper 6:30pm Worship Service with Communion	27 9:00am Latin Fitness Dance 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	28 9:00am Cardio Tone 10:00-11:30am Parish Nurse Is In No Chair Yoga	29 No Yoga Class
30 9:00am Worship with Communion	31 No Chair Yoga					



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:00am Cardio Tone	2 5:15pm— Lenten Dinner 6:30pm Worship with Communion	3 9am Latin Dance 10am Cardio Tone	4 11:00am Chair Yoga	5 No Yoga Class
6 9:00am Worship with Communion	7 11:00am Chair Yoga	8 <i>Bulletin Items Due</i> 9:00am Cardio Tone	9 BP Screenings 5:15pm— Youth Group Fundraiser Lenten Dinner 6:30pm Worship with Communion	10 9:00 Latin Dance 6-8pm GriefShare	11 9am Cardio Tone 10:00-11:30am Parish Nurse Is In No Chair Yoga	12 10am WinGS Mtg 11:00am Yoga with Tara
13 PALM SUNDAY <i>Sunday of the Passion</i> 9:00am Worship with Communion 10:30am Education Hour	14 11:00am Chair Yoga 1:00-3:00pm Cards in the Café	15 <i>Bulletin Items Due</i> 9:00am Cardio Tone 6:30pm Board of Directors	16	17 MAUNDY THURSDAY 9am Latin Dance 10am Cardio Tone 6:30pm Worship Service with Communion	18 GOOD FRIDAY 10:00-11:30am Parish Nurse Is In No Chair Yoga 6:30pm Worship Service	19 9am Men at Peace 11:00am Yoga with Tara
20 EASTER <i>The Resurrection of Our Lord</i> 9:00am Worship with Communion Easter Breakfast following service	21 11:00am Chair Yoga	22 <i>Bulletin Items Due</i> 9:00am Cardio Tone 3:30pm Board of Worship	23	24 9:00 Latin Dance 6-8pm GriefShare	25 9:00am Cardio Tone No Chair Yoga	26 11:00am Yoga with Tara
27 9:00am Worship with Communion 10:30am Education Hour	28 11:00am Chair Yoga 1:00-3:00pm Cards in the Café	29 9:00am Cardio Tone	30 6:30pm Worship with Communion			