

Peace Notes

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HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday – April 1 at 6:30pm
Good Friday – April 2 at 11:00 & 6:30pm
Easter Sunday – April 4 at 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 am

*The Promise
of Easter*



1 Corinthians 15:35-37

Past-or Present

Dear beloved children of God of the Peace family,

I hope and pray that this message finds you and your family well. In many ways, it's hard to believe that it has been a year since we began to feel the effects of the pandemic. No doubt we have experienced many ups and downs along the way, and through it all, our gracious God has remained faithful to His promises and kept us in His grace.

Even though our Easter celebration will not entirely return to normal this year, thanks be to God that unlike last year we will be able to come together in our worship space and raise our Alleluias in response to the proclamation "**Christ is risen!**"

"**Christ is risen!**" It seems like such a small thing to say.

"**Christ is risen!**" seems like such a small thing in the midst of a world and life that can be most difficult.

"**Christ is risen!**" seems so small against all the evil we see in our world, all the hatred, all the bad news that never seems to stop.

"**Christ is risen!**" seems so small when we watch the body of a loved one being laid to rest.

"**Christ is risen!**" seems so small when we confront challenges, difficulties, and hardships day in and day out.

"**Christ is risen!**" Is that all there is to say this Easter?

Well, in all honesty, yes! Because those are no mere words, but words that express the truth that on Easter, in our risen Lord, everything has changed! Even though sin and evil oppress us, even though hardships and doubts assail us, even though the devil roars and bares his teeth at us,

and even though the grave opens wide its mouth to swallow us up, all of these have been defeated! Because Jesus has overcome them, so shall we. Because Christ is risen, so shall we rise from the dead!

An old pastor, as he lay dying, said: "If Christ is risen, then nothing else matters. And if He is not risen, then nothing else matters."

So, as we proclaim this Easter "Christ is risen!", we are saying no small thing. We are proclaiming *the* event that has changed everything. We are proclaiming a reality so powerful that not even the gates of hell can stand against it.

"**Christ is risen!**" That is our good news today and every day. And that truth makes all the difference today and every day in a world that so desperately needs the hope it gives.

Whatever has come our way, and whatever will come our way: "**Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**"

Stronger together with you in our risen Lord,

Pastor

"Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might."
— Ephesians 6:10



Easter Studies:

RightNow Media has a wide variety of Easter Studies and Kid's Easter Studies available to enhance your celebration of the Lord's resurrection. Popular speakers and Bible teachers such as J.D. Greer, Francis Chan, Tony Evans, and Max Lucado, among others, are available for your viewing.

To watch an Easter study:

- Go to www.rightnowmedia.org
- On the far-left side of the home page, there is a menu for "libraries".
- After clicking on "libraries," scroll down to Peace Lutheran Church.
- From there, you will easily find the section marked "Easter Studies"

Sue Michel



*Lutheran Church Charities –
Texas Disaster Relief*

February dealt a deadly blow to the State of Texas. A huge winter storm brought five days of extraordinary freezing temperatures, snow and ice to the state. Many lives were lost and huge

amounts of property damage was done when the power grid failed.

We have been collecting donations for Lutheran Church Charities (LCC) throughout the month of March and will continue through Easter Sunday. LCC has been working with the LCMS Texas District and they already have people on the ground helping out. 100% of all donations will directly go to individuals and families affected by the storm.

If you would like to help, you can donate online at www.peacelutheran.org or you can use one of the envelopes to donate with a check or cash. Checks should be made out to Peace Lutheran Church and can be placed in the offering basket. You can also give your donation to one of the secretaries in the office.

Thanks, and God Bless,

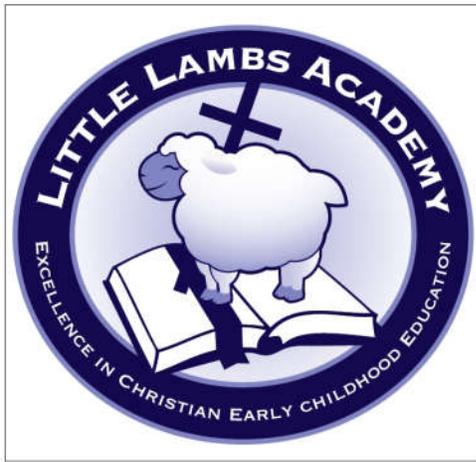
Marilyn Thompson

Friendship

Friendship is a mighty ship
That weathers many gales
And leaves a blessing to the world
In every place it sails.
It helps the weary, cheers the sad,
And drives dark clouds away;
It gives a helping hand to those
Who've fallen by the way.

Friendship is a blessed ship
That's full of peace and love,
And carries sunshine everywhere,
From God's own blessed above.
And make the world a better place---
E'en more like heaven sweet---
And helps to smooth the pathway out
For weary pilgrim's feet.

Submitted by Sheila Ambelang



LLA News & Notes

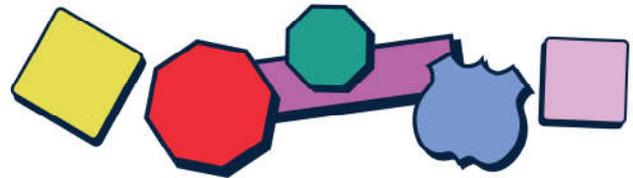
April showers bring May flowers! The Little Lambs children will be experiencing spring and all it entails in the coming weeks! When we return from Easter break, the children will be getting outside as often as possible, and we'll use our five senses to notice the beauty in God's creation of the new season.

The Infant and Child Care classes get outside every day for at least a short walk unless it's raining. The babies are watching the birds, rabbits and squirrels that visit the feeders outside their window and in the yard. As the weather improves, they take walks to Park Arthur to see even more wildlife and flowering trees. We are so thankful for the two multi-child strollers that allow us to bring children safely to explore the neighborhood around us.



We have a small group of children who are "New 3's" in our Pre-3K class who are learning all about shapes, colors and numbers as they experience their first time without parents in a class setting. They will continue into May with their lessons, then will enter 3K in the fall.

The 3K classes will be learning about spring, science and flowers during April. With a traveling science box filled with supplies to do three age-appropriate experiments, the children get to build on the skills they learn during our class lessons. We observe, ask questions, make guesses and try out new things all the time. The children are learning to think and wonder about the world around us. We will learn all about the things in our world that God gives plants to grow and live - seeds, soil, water and sunshine! We'll continue to practice skills in preparation for 4K such as scissors work, writing our names, and counting.



During April, the 4K students will continue their alphabet study with letters U, V and W. They will make a vase of violets and study the parts of a plant. They'll add in Earth Day activities, learning about caring for our world. They'll have Western day and even make (and eat) waffles! They continue to grow their math skills with subtraction, as they prepare for 5K.

Our Chapel lessons in April will be about Jesus' Ascension to Heaven, Pentecost and how the disciples started the new church. We love to learn about God in our very special Bibles that the Peace congregation gifted the children. Many children talk about reading their Bibles at home every week. Thank you for your generosity and support.

Stacy Abraham



Food Drive Success

Thanks to everyone who donated food and funds to our January and February food collection. We were able to take a carload of non-perishable food to both the Muskego and the New Berlin Food pantries. We also raised \$2095.80, which we split between the two food pantries.

They were happy to receive the food and the funds as the need is great in our community!

Marilyn Thompson



IF:Gathering

On March 5 and 6, ten women from Peace participated in IF:Gathering, a virtual Bible conference. Using the theme, “Even if the worst happens...we won’t lose hope”, we experienced 5 sessions on Biblical teaching, one breakout on a topic of our choosing, and inspiring opportunities to worship.

The virtual content within IF:Gathering is available to anyone within our church through the end of the year. Breakout sessions, which are about 45 minutes each, include:

“How to Navigate Today’s Culture”- John Mark Comer

“How to Make Disciples When No One Knows what ‘Disciple’ Means”- Jefferson Bethke

“A Christian’s Guide to Engaging Politics”- Eugene Cho

“Why There is Hope for your Brokenness”- Toni Collier

“Have a Healthy Relationship with your Body”- Isabel Garza

“The New Normal: A Heart Burning Bright”- Layla De La Garza

“God and Suffering”- Ellie Holcomb and An Ijm Leader from South Asia

“You Don’t Have to be Just Like Her”- Sadie Robertson Huff

“Living Faithfully Despite All of the Noise”- Trillia Newbell

“Building Up Future Leaders”- Vivian Mabuni

“The Church’s Next Step for Racial Reconciliation”- Latasha Morrison and David Bailey

“Here’s the Thing About Anxiety”- Dr Anita Phillips

“How to Ruin Your Life in the 20’s”- Jonathan Pokluda

“Relationships Every Leader Needs to Prioritize”- Jo Saxton

“Holy Parenting”- Ruth Chou Simons

“Forgiving What You Can’t Forget”-Lysa Terkeurst

“How To Connect in an Isolating World”- Dr Curt Thompson

If you are interested in watching the virtual content offered at IF:Gathering, please contact Sue in the church office.

It is our hope that when we are more easily able to safely gather in person, that we can begin to offer IF:Table. This would bring a group of maybe six ladies together on a regular basis to have a spiritual conversation and form friendships. Please watch for more details coming soon.

Sue Michel

Hymn Reflection

“In Holy Conversation”

(from Lutheran Service Book #772)

*“In holy conversation we speak to God in prayer,
And at His invitation our deepest thoughts we share”*

Prayers, whether memorized, made up on the spot, or written out ahead of time, are really nothing more than conversations with the Lord. Do you talk to your spouse, your best friend, or your co-worker? Sure you do. You may talk to this person every single day. And we can approach our Lord Jesus, in the same manner.

Psalm 50:15 reminds us to “Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.” So, think of praying as calling upon God, in trouble, in trust, and in eager expectation for how he will work things out.

How do you feel when you are included in a family gathering or when a friend asks you to meet for coffee because he or she wants to know how you are doing? What goes through your mind when you pick up the phone and hear a familiar, friendly voice instead of a sales caller? You feel invited. Included. Part of the gang. That’s how God feels about you. He invites you to speak to him. In fact, He seeks you out. When you come to God in prayer, He wants to know the “real” story of you. You may recite memorized prayers, or words that were written by someone else, but God wants to know your needs. We don’t need to be afraid to be honest with Him.

Consider Philippians 4:6, “But in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God”. And those requests that you make? He knows them even before the words leave your lips. “Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear (Isaiah 65:24)”

*“We come His will obeying, as children bringing needs
And to support our praying, His Spirit intercedes”*

I imagine some of you may feel like I do about asking people for things. I just really hate to be the needy one, the one who needs a favor, or an extra hand. I don’t like to feel like I am imposing on someone. But consider children...say a two-year-old, for example. Two-year-olds have no qualms with making demands, letting their voice be heard, and their needs known. That’s how we can come to God. Not in temper tantrums, necessarily, but in that bluntness of a child making requests. Are you mad? Tell him. Are you sad? Tell him. Do you feel like giving up? It’s ok to tell him that too. And who helps us in our prayer? The Holy Spirit himself. The spirit takes the groans, the tongue-tied “I’m not even sure what to say” uncertainty deep in our hearts, and the praises, and He weaves them with his to build a beautiful conversation between you and your loving Father.

It’s conversation. A holy God and Father loves His child and wants to talk. It’s prayer. What a beautiful gift to enjoy and to share with others!

Text Giving at Peace Lutheran

It’s easy to forget cash or your checkbook when you are at church on Sunday morning. But, even if you’ve left both behind, you can still support Peace Lutheran Church by simply sending a text from your smartphone.

Peace is now using a service called “**Give Plus +**” to make this possible for you. The following images can guide you through this process. To get started, you need to enter this number into your phone: **844-502-0521**.

Sue Michel

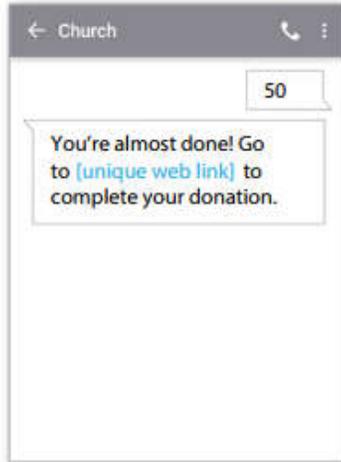
Church Name **Peace Lutheran Church**

10-Digit GivePlus Text # **844-502-0521**

Quick Guide

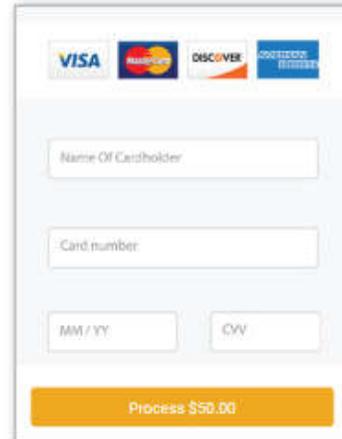
1. Get Started

Enter your 10-digit GivePlus Text number and the amount you wish donate, then press send.



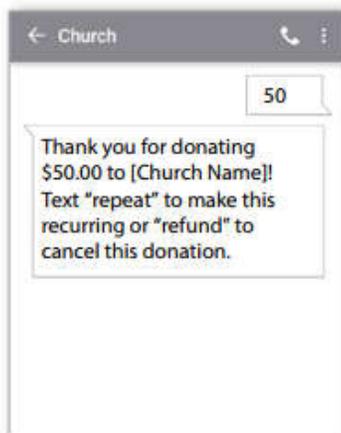
2. Register

You will receive a registration link. Click the link and enter your contact and payment information. Tap "Process."



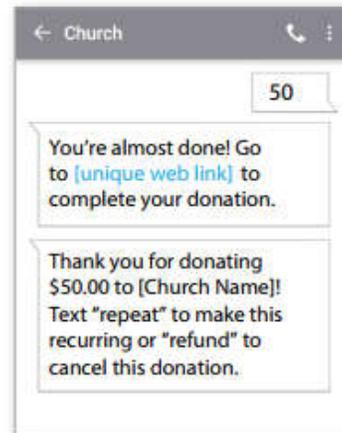
3. Give

After registration is complete, you will receive a verification text as well as a receipt via email.



4. Repeat

For future giving, simply send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically.



Prayer Ministry

It is our pleasure to pray for anyone who has a prayer request. You can contact Pastor or the church office if you would like us to pray for you or someone you know. On Sunday mornings, you have the opportunity to share prayer requests by writing them on a sheet right next to the “Welcome” banner. Pastor can then read those prayer requests in the worship service.

You are encouraged to keep your brothers and sisters in Christ at Peace in your personal prayers. Consider taking “Peace this Week” and the included weekly prayer sheet home with you and keeping it in a place that is often visible, such as your kitchen table, or near your bed. Then you can recall frequently the prayer needs of others.

Peace Lutheran has a prayer chain with people who are always willing to pray. A detailed email goes out every week letting those on the prayer chain know the prayer requests that we have received. If you would like to be included in the prayer chain email, please let Sue in the church office know.

“Pray, and let God worry”- Martin Luther

Sue Michel



Third Time's the Charm

I'm sure that you are familiar with the expression, “third time's the charm”. Well, we are really hoping that there is truth in that

expression, as we have now set the new (and third) date for the Ysleta Lutheran Mission Trip.

The first date was March 21 – 28, 2020 which was canceled last minute due to travel restrictions from the pandemic. Then we set November 21-28, 2020 as our date because we thought that certainly the pandemic would be over by then! Well, we all know that was not the case. But now with the COVID vaccines rolling out, there is hope on the horizon! Our new date is **November 6-13th 2021** and we would love to have you come along on the trip!

We will be building a small wood framed house (12 feet by 24 feet), that sits on a cement slab that is finished before our arrival. The standard house has 2 rooms, one door and two windows, and is wired for electricity. There is no plumbing of any kind. The house is easily completed in 4 to 5 days of work.

While these homes are very basic, they are very much appreciated by the families that receive them in the Juarez area of Mexico. Many times, family members join in on the construction or painting of the new home and they, along with us, are filled with joy.

We will travel by plane to El Paso Texas and stay in the dormitory on the grounds of Ysleta Lutheran Mission in El Paso. It is conveniently close to the USA/Mexican border and we use the mission's van to travel across to work each weekday. We eat our breakfast and dinner at the mission in El Paso, prepared for us by Rita, a very experienced and great cook. Sandwiches are made to take with us to the job site during the day.

The cost of the trip is \$360 plus air fare. The \$360 covers the cost of lodging, meals for the week and the use of the van. We will also have a servant event coordinator and/or a construction supervisor come along with us to direct the construction and also to act as an interpreter when needed. The cost of the supplies for the home build have already been paid for last year.

This is one of the easiest foreign mission trips that you can make, as we spend more time in the United States than in Mexico. But it gives you a better understanding of what life is like in Mexico and you will meet some wonderful Christians along the way. Most people who attend feel their own walk with Jesus deepened over the course of the week. If you are interested or have any questions, please call me at 414-870-6461 or email me at mthompson1234t@gmail.com. We would love to have you join our team! Remember, although construction experience is a plus, we will gladly show you how to use a hammer if needed!

Thanks,

Marilyn Thompson



April Birthdays

April 1	Bruce Roller
April 3	Gabriella Stridde
April 6	Bill Erblich Beth Treptow
April 7	Matthew Welden
April 8	Maxwell Abel
April 11	Micah Kust
April 12	Linda Haen Clarice LaChapelle
April 14	Ben Nelson

April 15	Delores Coleman Bob Davey Kaia Jakubowski Holly Kritter
April 16	Dave Schopf
April 18	Christine Rice
April 19	Mike Paddock
April 20	Eleanor Guise
April 22	Sandy Fish Kyla Mackai
April 23	Eric Thompson
April 24	Daryl Hantula
April 25	Gary Barg Zack Malinauskas Matt Schneider, Jr. Wendy Tyler
April 28	Jeannie Dumke Kim Jakubowski
April 29	Kristina Stridde
April 30	Alex Carey

