

# Peace Notes

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## *From the Pastor's Pen*

This Lent, Peace is going to be going "Cross-Eyed." We are going to look at different types of Crosses and the meaning behind each one.

As we walk the way of the Cross and empty tomb on our forty-day journey, which starts February 18 (Ash Wednesday), we will Biblically look at how "Only Jesus" is able to do, what only He could do, for us and our salvation.

Our midweek services will be at 6:30PM on Wednesday nights. Dinner starts at 5:30PM prior to worship.

Our daily devotional book for these forty days will be titled "The Joy of Salvation" with the

reflections and prayers written by Peace Lutheran's very own Rev. Dr. Gil Duchow.

Ash Wednesday: The Crusaders' Cross: Only Jesus Can Cleanse the Temple  
(Matthew 21:12-17)

Midweek 2: The Barbed Cross: Only Jesus is Worth That Much  
(Mark 14:3-9)

Midweek 3: The Sovereign's Cross: Only Jesus Could Change Us to Move Mountains  
(Matthew 21:18-22)

Midweek 4: The Titled Cross: Only Jesus Can Make Us Look Up on the Last Day  
(Luke 21:25-28)

Midweek 5: The Cross of Ascent: Only Jesus Would Wait So Long for Someone  
(Matthew 26:20-25)

Maundy Thursday: The Arched Cross: Only Jesus Would Wash Between Our Toes  
(John 13:1-17)

Good Friday: Calvary's Cross: Only Jesus Would Take Our Place in Hell  
(Matthew 27:45-46)

Easter Jesus: No Cross: Only Jesus Can Roll Away Stones  
(John 20:1-18)

Together as Christians, may our 20-20 vision be through the lens of the Cross & Empty Tomb.

*Pastor Kruse*

## ***Ministry Council Report***

Greetings, Peace family!

Over the past several weeks, we've had the opportunity to hear from two visioning consultants: Randy Larson from Five Two on December 14, and Jeff Meyer from Auxano on January 11.

Thank you to everyone who attended and engaged in those presentations. At our February 1 Voters' Meeting, we will vote on how to move forward with visioning. At that time, we may choose to partner with Auxano, Five Two, or to move ahead without a consultant.

Peace has not participated in a formal visioning process since 2008—nearly 20 years ago. Since then, much has changed in our lives and in the life of our congregation. Our Peace family has grown and shifted, and so have our neighborhoods, our state, and our country. These changes invite us to pause and ask thoughtful questions about where God may be leading us now.

We are grateful that Peace is experiencing organic growth and financial stability. At the same time, we're feeling some real constraints—limited space, aging facilities that need care, and the growing need for additional staff to support our ministry. As we look ahead, we want to make intentional decisions that reflect Christ's calling for our church and help us move forward with faith and purpose.

Clarifying our vision, mission, and core values will help unite us around a shared direction and common language. From there, we can develop a realistic and flexible strategic plan—one with clear milestones that allow us to measure progress and make adjustments along the way.

While Peace can't be everything to everyone, we *can* focus on our strengths, align our leadership and congregation, and move forward together in a way that honors both our current realities and our future calling.

So where is God leading us next? Let's discern that together.

Please continue to pray—for wisdom, unity, and clarity; for openness to God's will; and that whatever path we choose would deepen our faith and strengthen our commitment to sharing the love of Christ.

Blessings to all!

*Carol Fontanez*



**February 1  
Following Coffee-sip**

## ***Mission of the Month***

### **Evangelical Child & Family Agency**

Evangelical Child & Family Agency (ECFA) is dedicated to offering compassionate, Christ-centered care to children, families, and individuals through their adoption and pregnancy support services.

Their team of trained professionals provides free, confidential, and caring support to women facing an unexpected pregnancy or those who simply need extra encouragement during their pregnancy journey. ECFA's case workers walk alongside each client, helping them work toward personal goals such as finding stable income, securing housing, connecting with community resources, and receiving essential material support. They serve parenting mothers from the beginning of their pregnancy through their baby's first six months of life. For those who choose adoption, ECFA's support continues for up to one year after the child is born.

ECFA's adoption program also offers Christ-centered guidance and support to families who feel called to grow their family through adoption. Their adoption staff helps prepare and license families while walking with them every step of their adoption journey. They currently offer services for Domestic, Interstate, International, and Embryo adoptions. Because both their adoption and pregnancy support teams are housed within the same organization, ECFA is uniquely positioned to foster healthy, respectful relationships between birth families and adoptive families.

Monetary donations help ECFA meet critical, practical needs for items that they are unable to store in large quantities, such as car seats, Pack 'n Plays, strollers, and other essential baby items. Your generosity allows them to respond quickly and effectively when a mother reaches out in need, ensuring she and her baby receive support right when it matters most.

Thank you for your heart for serving families and partnering with ECFA in this life-affirming work.

To donate, please use the specially marked envelopes on the info desk. For more information or for volunteer opportunities, check out their web site at [www.ecfawisc.org](http://www.ecfawisc.org). They are conveniently located at 1617 S 124<sup>th</sup> St in New Berlin.

*Marilyn Thompson*

## ***Little Lambs Academy News***

We are busy with learning and growing this time of the year, and **registration for the 2026-27 school year is now open!** If you have a child, grandchild or friend who is looking for a high quality, faith-filled preschool or childcare program, we'd love to meet you.

You can contact our Co-Directors, Mrs. Sara Henson and Mrs. Jen Lehmann at [preschool@peacelutheran.org](mailto:preschool@peacelutheran.org) to schedule a tour.

We offer half day 3K, half day and full day 4K, lunch add-ons, and childcare for ages 6 weeks through 5 years. We also have a class for 2-year-old Toddlers with a Caregiver (2T class).

Our 3K classes are learning about Community Helpers during the month of February. We learn about first responders, doctors, dentists, construction workers and more. As we wind down our study of our community, we will start learning about how our Five Senses help us experience the world God made.

During February, the 4K classes will be learning letters Oo, Pp and Qq. We learn about President's Day with a Lincoln log cabin to work on and counting by 10's to 100. We get to come to school in our PJ's for letter Pp week! Towards the end of February, we'll celebrate the 100th day of school with many activities to show off our math skills. Hopefully we'll also get outside to play in the snow and go sledding on Fridays!

Of course, all of the preschool and childcare classes will celebrate Valentine's Day the week

of February 14. We love to show our love for others by making Valentine's. During Jesus Time, we learn how Jesus welcomed, loved and blessed the little children!

Thank you for your continued support of our Great School!

*Stacy Abraham  
3K Lead Teacher*



## *February Birthdays & Anniversaries*



Chris Eberhardy	February 3
Isabella Sholty	
Jennifer Langbauer	February 5
Jill Paque	
Jasmine Davey	February 6
Gregory Hawke	February 7
Evelyn Kenyon	February 8
Suzi Banks	
Sherry Gunderson	
Rodney Videkovich	February 9
Bret Langbauer	February 10
Michelle Brunn	
Robert Gliniecki	February 12
Hanna Rewolinski	February 14
Jeffrey Barg	
LaRae Malinauskas	February 15
Chris Fulcer	
Marcia Schelle	February 16

Patti Woodard	February 17
Ava Jakubowski	February 18
Christopher Krakau	February 19
Phil Plagge	February 22
Jerry Malecki	February 23
Owen Malinauskas	February 26
Joe Malinauskas	
Greg Zuchowski	February 27
David Lau	February 28



Barry & Sharon Kenyon  
February 20, 1988

Roger & Gail Brunn  
February 28, 1976

## *Save the Date...*

VBS 2026 will be held June 15-18!

Information regarding how you can help will be coming soon.

*Debbie Packard*

