

Peace Notes

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Past-or Present

As many or most of you already know, Dori Loppnow retired this past June after nearly 30 total years of service at Peace, including 10 years as a Little Lambs teacher and the last nearly 20 years as one of our church office assistants. As with so many other events this year, COVID-19 and the accompanying health precautions have prevented us from having the kind of in-person celebrations we have hosted for other Peace workers who have followed God's leading into another season of life.

So that time does not further get away from us, and with encouragement from other staff members, this month I am dedicating the space of this article to thanking and praising our gracious Lord for Dori's faithful service at Peace in His name.

When I arrived at Peace in 2017, Dori was instrumental and key in helping me learn my way around both in the life of our congregation as well as in life in the Milwaukee area. She kept me on track with our church office procedures, reminded me of where I was supposed be and at what time, and even cued me in on the congregation's favorite hymns.

I could say so much more, but we'd thought we would give some others who have served at Peace over the years the opportunity to express their thanks in their own words, many of which echo my own.

God's richest blessing in Jesus, Dori, and may He give you abundant joy in your new season of life!

Stronger together with you,
Pastor Greg Michel

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

FROM ANDREW CORDY, DCE:

From the moment I met her on my first day at Peace Dori and I immediately became close friends. Immediately our sense of humor meshed, and we were laughing and joking like we had been friends for years.

At work I valued her for her great sense of humor, wisdom in ministry and valuable input and knowledge about how the church runs. We took constant water and snack breaks and I found those times incredibly valuable as we were able to laugh and process what to do about certain things that needed to get done at church. I always knew I could come to her with a problem or question and would get either an answer, valuable wisdom or at least pointed in the right direction. She was dedicated to every part of the church, from worship, to teaching and youth group, to children's ministry and the preschool, to ministry to shut-ins and the senior home ministry. Every single part of the ministry of Peace was a part of Dori's heart.

In my personal life Dori and I quickly became close friends. My first couple of years in Wisconsin I became part of the Lopponow family and attended Easter, Christmas, Thanksgiving and a variety of other holiday events. I went over to her house for dinner and swimming, we would go on tours, and even went to the fireside. As you can imagine moving to a new state and knowing nobody was pretty scary and lonely. However, my quick friendship with Dori made Wisconsin not so intimidating anymore. I knew I had someone I could count on and who would have my back.

All in all, I miss Dori and her friendship and partnership in ministry. I know that we will be friends for a lifetime. I know also that Peace will miss her and her wisdom, heart for ministry and people, and love for God.

Much love to you, Dori,
Andrew

FROM PASTOR MICAH STEINER:

Dori was a joy to work with during my 4 1/2 years at Peace as DCE. In addition to correcting my atrocious spelling and grammar (if she didn't catch it, Jean I am blanking on her last name. Wonderful woman who did my laundry and her husband was a pastor??? would :) so the stakes were high!), she always went above and beyond to look after members who were in need, caring for the staff, and working tirelessly for the sake of the Gospel. I have missed playing practical jokes on her, comparing her to Dori the fish from Finding Nemo, quoting movie lines over and over "You forgot your files Wyzowski", and simply sharing life with the Kuchler family who warmly allowed me into their lives as an intern and young single church worker who could barely operate a microwave let alone cook a meal. Dori, you have been an incredible blessing to so many people, including me. I am grateful for our friendship, and I wish you God's peace and His blessing in your retirement! Well done, good and faithful servant.

FROM PASTOR KEN RANKIN:

“Dori, Dori, Dori... WHAT are you doing?? Is it true? Are you really retiring... already?! I hear that it's only been 29 years and a few months! Just what are you thinking?! What are you going to do now? Hum, ... good question, right? Maybe you can have a little more family time and relax a just a little... Yes?” Well, knowing Dori, she most likely won't “relax” too much. She is one of the hardest working, and caring individuals I know. She used her God given talents well, as a teacher, administrator, and leader of the church. In my short nine years at Peace, I was blessed to have Dori as the office manager, and very often, the “face” of Peace. I can remember numerous occasions when she went out of her way, to help members and staff feel welcome and needed. She seemed to always have time to listen to people and help them find answers. There is much more I could say, but I'm sure Dori is saying, “that's enough!”. (ha!!)

Sincerely, Debbie and I would just like to wish you and Tom the very best on your retirement, and may our gracious God give you Joy and Peace in the days ahead.

Pastor Ken Rankin

FROM PASTOR MARK SCHUDDE:

Many thanks to Dori... You started your service at Peace in our preschool but were taken from Little Lambs and "brought up a level" (literally) to work as Peace's Secretary. It was one of the best moves that God led me to make. You always seemed to have your finger on the pulse of the congregation. You knew its needs before the pastor did. Wisely your advice and input was well received by all who sat in the pastor's chair.

Your voice on the phone was both reassuring and encouraging. The way you greeted members, parents and guests who came through the doors Monday thru Friday showed your gift of hospitality. The way you did it was an example to all of the Body of Christ. The attitude of the office was kept upbeat and cheerful as you helped set the tone. You kept the staff on their toes. Among the team of Schudde-Steiner-and Szczupakiewicz, who knew what practical joke or fun activity would be dreamt up from that front desk.

With heart-felt tears you said, "goodbye" to one pastor, only to lovingly support the next. You knew that Christ's kingdom and Peace's mission was more important than any one person.

The hats that you wore were many. Beyond the role of church secretary, you welcomed new people, who soon became members. You taught confirmation and sang with the Praise Team. Frequently you watered the plants and even helped with seasonal decorations, sometimes toning them down when decorators got overly ambitious.

You are one of a kind. You are a child of God. You are a gift to Christ's church.

With sincere thanks and gratitude,
Pastor Mark Schudde

Bible Studies

There are many opportunities to connect with your church family in person or online for Bible study this fall. The Word of God is powerful and it is working in our lives. Come and participate in a Bible study that suits your comfort level in being with others, and fits in your schedule. There are many options to choose from.

On Sundays-

- Pastor Michel leads a Bible study in Founders Hall on the topic of "Called to Vote: A Christian's Approach to Elections". This study begins at 9:20 and ends at 10:15. Participants practice physical distancing as we spread out among tables.
- Rob and Amy Hutter lead a Bible study for junior and senior high youth. It begins at 9:30 am. This study will meet on the church patio, weather permitting. Otherwise, it will move to an indoor location.

On Monday nights-

- Melody Erblich is starting a Bible study in her home on Lamentations, Habakkuk and Zephaniah. The first study will take place on Monday, October 26 at 7pm. Since this is an in-home study, space is limited so please be sure and let Melody know that you wish to attend. She can be reached at 414-422-1210. Limited books are available, or you can purchase your study book.

On Tuesday nights-

- Melody Erblich and her friend, Deb Frank, are co-facilitating an online Bible study on the topic "The Art of Neighboring". It meets from 7:00 -8:00 pm. This study is available for free online through RightNow Media. After watching

the video portion together, participants will chat online together about what they've heard and how it can apply to their lives.

If you are looking for a Bible study that meets at a different time, or explores a topic that is not listed above, please contact the church office at secretary@peacelutheran.org or 262.679.1441. It is our hope that we can increase our Bible study opportunities, and we might be able to help you find what you are looking for.

Sue Michel

Prayer Connects

Peace Lutheran has a caring group of people who pray for the needs of our church family. A weekly email is sent out to the prayer chain, and we also list those we remember in prayer in "Peace this Week".

- If you are celebrating God's goodness, we can praise the Lord with you.
- If you are missing a loved one, we can come alongside you in your grief.
- If you are experiencing a health concern, we can pray that God's will would be done and ask God to give you healing in His time.
- If you have a prayer concern that you want to be kept private, we respect that and we keep your prayer request anonymous.

Colossians 4:2 reminds us to "continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving." We are committed to checking in with the people on our prayer list from time to time so that they know that we are still praying for them, and that they are not forgotten.

Praying for others is an opportunity for us to show love for our church family and our

community at large. It is our pleasure to pray, so please tell us how we can pray for you. Contact the church office at secretary@peacelutheran.org, or by calling 262.679.1441.

If you would like to be part of the prayer ministry by receiving the weekly prayer chain emails, please contact Sue Michel at the church.

You are Loved

Have you ever felt left out? I'm sure you can think of a time when you were younger that everybody was included in something, except you.

In earlier years of my life, I had a leadership position in an organization related to homeschooling. Since I was in a leadership role, I had connections and relationships with many homeschoolers in my local area. During the summer, we held training opportunities for parents, and although there was plenty of work to be done, I also felt very much like I was in the middle of a family reunion of sorts. I felt like I knew everyone there. It was a great time of reconnecting with people I had worked with but hadn't seen in a long while. There was plenty of social interaction!

One summer I changed things up a bit and traveled to another part of the country so that I could go to the same type of homeschool training event within this same organization, but just in a different location. What a difference that was! I was there for three days, and never once did anyone make eye contact, smile at me, or include me in conversations. Meals were eaten alone. I was no longer a leader, but just a nobody. I most definitely know what it feels like to be left out!

So, what about the early Christians? Did they ever leave someone out? Let's think about a dialogue that was recorded in Luke 5. In verse 33, a question comes up about fasting. The Pharisees, being Pharisees, were there too ready

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to grumble. Pharisees didn't like the idea of Jesus associating with tax collectors and sinners, for in their mind surely Jesus loved the people of Jewish descent, and those who were righteous more than any others. In Luke 5:37-39, Jesus says

“ And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new will burst and it will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine desires new, for he says ‘The old is good’ ”.

Jesus wasn't all that concerned about the old, the traditions, or those who could claim their Jewish ancestry. His love was for all people, both Jew and gentile alike.

In church, we've been singing the song “Bind us together, Lord,” as we focus on our theme, “Stronger Together”. In verse three, we sing these words penned by Bob Gillman:

*“You are the family of God.
You are the promise divine
You are God's chosen desire.
You are the glorious new wine”*

Notice the affirmations God is speaking about you. Look at the inclusive, not exclusive, language. Are you left out? No! You're family! You're part of God's holy promise! You are chosen! You are the glorious new wine....loved by God, despite your past, and regardless of your family heritage.

Peace family, I hope you know how deeply and greatly you are loved by your Savior, Jesus Christ. I hope you know how much you are included and loved by your church family. Peace Lutheran is not a place of exclusion. You don't have to be good enough to be welcomed here. We need all of you, for it's only in working together that we can truly be “stronger together”.

Sue Michel

Our Preschool and Child Care classes are so excited to be back to school for in-person learning this fall! We are taking extra measures to be safe and healthy while we share God's love with the little children. All of our classes attend Chapel and Jesus Time each week. We've learned about the World God Made and about how Noah Loved God and God made a promise with the Rainbow. Next month we will learn about Abraham, Joseph and how Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt.

Three-year-old Preschool (3K) has been learning about colors with Mrs. Abraham and Mrs. Ritter. We have two classes in the morning, and the children are learning how to share and take turns, how to sit on the rug with pretzel legs and how to line up to go out of the room. In October we will be studying shapes all around us and begin learning our numbers and counting. We'll take a visit in a wagon out to the Peace Pumpkin Patch (the front yard - pumpkins courtesy of Cozy Nook Farm in Waukesha) while we look for the fall changes to our beautiful world that God made!

The 4K Classes led by Mrs. Shiroda and Mrs. Lehmann are adjusting back to school and making new friends. They have begun learning the alphabet and in October will learn about fall leaves and pumpkins. They will also work on number formation. The children learn all 26 letters of the alphabet throughout the year, learning to write the letters, sound them out and read words that include the letter in the beginning, middle and ending. They are busy every day and many of the children stay for lunch and afternoon enrichment.

Child care is busy with children from infants up to 4 year olds who come for some or all of the day. The teachers teach them about Jesus, care for their needs and help with potty training for the 2 year olds. Children learn to share and get along with others, as well as calendar, weather

and many other academics throughout the year tailored to their age and development.

We do have openings at all levels. Please contact our Preschool Director Laurie Kieliszewski at preschool@peacelutheran.org or call 262-679-1441. God's Blessings to all of you!

Stacy Abraham - 3K Teacher

Kidz J.A.M.

Kidz J.A.M. begins on Sunday, October 4. We will begin our year virtually with the intent to get back to in-person when the time is right. Details will be sent to our families regarding where you can view lessons each week.

Remember to sign up at peacelutheran.org. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at peacekidzjam@gmail.com or 920.277.6984.

We are still looking for teachers to help us out when we do return to in-person learning. Please consider taking on this rewarding journey as we get God's word out to our precious children.

God's Blessings,
Amy Borchardt

Confirmation Class

Peace rejoices with eight young people in our congregation who will be confirmed during the month of October.

Ben Aranda, Sam Boesel, Carson Daugherty, Brian Gerke, Tyler Hockett, Oliver Korselt, Amelia Olson, and Zoe Peterson and their families are making final preparations for this festive day.

Due to the large class size, as well as the need for physical distancing, the confirmation students are choosing to either be confirmed on Saturday, October 24 at a 6:00 p.m. service, or on Sunday, October 25 at a 2:00 p.m. service. Pastor Michel, the confirmation students, and their families will be the only people present.

While we may not all be able to gather as one large church family to witness the confirmation service, we can come together in celebrating the faith that God has given to our young people. We can pray for our confirmands, offer them words of encouragement, and maybe even send them a card. As the Apostle Paul encouraged young Timothy, let us remind our young people: *"Don't let anyone look down on you for being young. Instead make your speech, behavior, love, faith, and purity an example for other believers."* 1 Timothy 4:12

Sue Michel

Hands of Christ Ministry

In March of 2020, after church buildings were closed for community worship, a call went out for volunteers to contact the Peace family members to assure them that they were not alone in these unprecedented times, that Peace Lutheran Church was willing to walk with them through this pandemic, to assure them of God's love for them in all situations, and to keep them informed about on-line worship opportunities.

Thirty-five Peace members answered the call. This is a wonderful testimony of God's provision and our member's love for each other. Countless phone calls were made, and many cards were sent to members of all age groups. DVDs and CDs were prepared and delivered to members who could not watch the service on the internet. Each time we had a new opportunity to gather in the parking lot from the Easter carillon hymn sing to the offering of parking lot communion, volunteers notified their families. New

relationships formed as a result of this loving outreach.

Nobody expected this pandemic to last this long. What was hoped to be a short-term outreach has turned into a continuing endeavor.

Unfortunately, several of the original team members need to step down from this service, so we are once again placing a call for God's servants to be the Hands of Christ and volunteer.

Won't you consider joining us? We hope to have enough members agree to contact 4-5 families once every month by phone and to send an occasional note of encouragement. This would mean 1 phone call every week to an assigned family unit, at your convenience. Most of those in our congregation have family members that assist in their physical needs, and so we would like to make sure their spiritual needs are also met.

Please contact Melody Erblich at 414-422-1210 or merblich@wi.rr.com or Pastor Michel at pastor@peacelutheran.org or 262-679-1441.

Thank you for considering this very necessary outreach.

"You must encourage one another each day. And you must keep on while there is still a time that can be called "today." If you don't, then sin may fool some of you and make you stubborn."

*Hebrews 3:13 (CEV)
Melody Erblich*

RightNow Media

RightNow Media is a free library of Christian and biblically based videos. The library has resources for marriage and family ministry, children, youth, small group Bible studies, and living out your faith in the workplace and in the community. We have about 33 families using RightNow Media and we would love to see others enjoy it too.

RightNow Media is compatible with many streaming devices. There is a RightNow Media app for iPhone, iPad, and Android. It also works with Apple TV, Chromecast, Roku, and FireTV.

To sign up for RightNow Media, you can text the words "RIGHTNOW PEACELUTHERANWI" to 41411 or you can click here:

<https://bit.ly/PEACELUTHERANWI>. If you are a member of Peace, a friend of Peace, or if you are involved in Little Lambs Academy, you may access RightNow Media from an account that is paid for by Peace. If you have a friend, a co-worker, or a family member who would like to know more about RightNow Media, encourage them to go to www.rightnowmedia.org and look at the far right corner. There is a square that says, "access limited library". That's how people outside of our church can view video content without creating an additional expense for us.

If you have any questions about RightNow Media, please contact Sue Michel at the church.

Free RightNow Media Conference

RightNow Media is sponsoring a free one-day digital conference on Thursday, November 5 on the theme of "Focus". The conference will be presented from 9 am to 5 pm and in registering for it, you have the option to go back at a later time and watch the content on a schedule that is most convenient for you. You don't have to view it entirely on the 5th of November.

The theme of "Focus" will be presented as we focus on the Master, focus on the message, and focus on the mission. Colossians 3:1-3 is a key verse for this conference. *"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."* Conference speakers include Matt Chandler and Tony Evans, among others.

To learn more about this event, go to www.rightnowconferences.org. Be sure and let someone in the church office know if you are planning to attend, so that we can follow up with helpful discussion afterwards.

Sue Michel

A Note from Pastor

Please join me in rejoicing with those who rejoice, namely our brothers and sisters in Christ at my former congregation—St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Milan, Illinois—that after 3 years and 4 months following my departure to accept the call to Peace, a pastor has finally accepted the call to be their next shepherd. Their time of patient waiting seemed long, but we were once again reminded that the Lord of the Church provides in His time, in His way, and according to His purposes. God’s richest blessings to Pastor Kurt Larson and the saints of God at St. Matthew, and may their partnership in the Gospel be a source of mutual blessing for many years to come. Thanks be to God!

Love and Care

How would you like to join a great mission?

Then Love and Care is for you. It does not require a lot of time, and we try to accomplish this mission with love.

We provide Christian love and support through sending cards to anyone in need, help with funerals and meals when needed.

We would be happy to have you join us in this important, encouraging function.

Please see or call me at 262-710-4268 to volunteer or for more information.

*Sheila Ambelang
Coordinator*



October Birthdays

Madysen Brunn	October 1
Bill Vath	October 4
Jill Pokorny	
Jake Rewolinski	October 5
Oliver Korselt	October 6
Mark Dolezar	October 7
Elsie Korselt	
Paige Matz	October 9
Lori Paulus	October 11
Monica Balistreri	
Bonnie Vath	October 15
Lauren Ritter	October 16
Sara Pitcel	
Jessica Weber	October 17
Deb Nelson	October 20
Julia Gerke	October 24
Kennedy Plautz	October 26
Wayne Mike	October 27
Brycen Kleinhans	
Ken Neidert	October 28
Amelia Boesel	October 29
Mary Lewandowski	October 31