

PARTNERS

Peace Lutheran Church



February 2012

Peace Meets for the Annual Meeting

God's grace was celebrated, new council members elected, finances presented, and new ministry anticipated at the annual congregational meeting on Sunday morning, January 29th.

Council President Leslie Pratt and Pastor Mark Nelson reviewed ministry during 2011. Both noted the year of "*continued growth*" with the hiring of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Director, Jason Kramme and the gifts and vitality he has brings to the congregation, the formation of new small groups, the increase of adult education opportunities, vibrant Sunday morning worship, and significant outreach to the community.

Commenting on recent feedback about the church council decision to sell the Peace House, Leslie Pratt announced further opportunities for feedback and further discussion.

Treasurer Bob Petroff reviewed congregation finances. 2011 income exceeded expenses by \$6,662.00 and benevolence to the Minneapolis Area Synod and other outreach ministries increased by 8.8%. The fall stewardship campaign was a success with increased pledging of 6.9%. A budget for 2012 of \$626,305.00 was proposed and accepted.

Elected to the church council for three-year terms were Deb Cross, Beth Lee, and Dave Thoen. Elected to the Nominating Committee were Tricia Davis and Dale Dramstad and, to the Audit Committee, Dawn Alger.

Pastor Mark Nelson presented council goals for ministry in 2012. They are characterized by a movement toward an outward missional focus. "*Our's is the kind of God who is always searching, always reaching out... so if we're going to stay close to this God, we're going to reach out with him.*" Among them are efforts to reach out to our immediate neighborhood, adult education and youth ministry that is geared to current and future members, and growth in small group ministries.

Thanked for their service to the congregation were outgoing council members Leslie Pratt, Kim Myhre, and Dan Larson.

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Lent Begins February 22

5:45pm Dinner

6:30pm-Ash Wednesday Service

6:30pm Confirmation

Wednesday Night Schedule beginning

February 29-Lent

5:45pm Dinner

6:30pm Lenten Worship

6:30pm Confirmation

7:15pm Adult Discussion

Lent Begins on February 22nd!

“Get ready for six weeks of feeling sad and bleak music.” For years I have heard that remark as we get closer to the Season of Lent. Yet this attitude doesn't make sense! The word, “Lent” comes from an Old English word for “spring,” and hence the original purpose of Lent is the renewal of our lives and the renewing of community. Lent, then, is a time for turning around and starting anew; all which gives the longer days and the spring and green to come deeper meaning. Come and be a part of the many Lenten offerings described below; come and be renewed!

Ash Wednesday, February 22

Lent's forty days begins on February 22 with Ash Wednesday worship at 6:30. There will be Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes along with the Peace Choir. A meal will be served in the Parish Hall from 5:45-6:15 p.m.

Lenten Wednesdays

Lenten worship, fellowship, and education continues on February 29 and Wednesdays into March. A meal will be served in the Parish Hall from 5:45-6:15 followed by evening worship from 6:30-7:15 in the Sanctuary. A discussion of the theme will follow in the Parish Hall.

Our theme? Prayer. From the cries of frustration to the songs of praise, the women and men of the Bible prayed with honesty and passion. They struggled, they questioned, they confessed and they worshipped, but above all, they discovered an intimate relationship with God through prayer. In this series on prayer, we can learn lessons from the characters of the Bible and help you develop a richer, more meaningful relationship with God through prayer.

Lenten Devotional Booklet

For your Lenten devotions, a compilation of scripture readings and devotions by Peace members will be available beginning on Ash Wednesday. Sign-up for readings and devotions begins on Sunday, February 5 and closes Wednesday, February 15.

Sunday Adult Education

On Lenten Sundays beginning February 26, we will begin a education series on “Christians and Vocation.” People sometimes assume that some jobs or lifestyles are automatically better in God's eyes and people who are soldiers or police officers or firefighters or preachers have higher purpose and value to God and to the rest of us. Yet, a proper understanding of Christian and vocation is believing and trusting that God is working through your daily life, calling you to “*bloom where you're planted,*” and that meaning is found in serving God by serving the neighbor, being a good spouse, child, parent, employee, employer, and citizen. Throughout Lent, Sunday Adult Education will welcome Peace members sharing where faith and vocation come together for them.

Youth Ash Wednesday Service and Breakfast

On Wednesday, February 22 at 6:15 AM Peace youth in grades 7-12 will be participating in a youth Ash Wednesday service at Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church. We have been asked to be a part of a mixed church choir and to give the invocation before the message. If you would like to be a part of this, please contact Jason ASAP. There will be a pancake breakfast immediately following the service.

Adult Education

Sundays and Wednesdays

“Serious Answers to Hard Questions” Discussion Series - Ten Christian and Jewish theologians, world experts in their respective fields, were each asked to address a single perplexing issue, such as Religion & Science, Other Religions, Evangelism & Tolerance, The God of the Old Testament, The Gnostic Gospels, and Sins of the Church. The result is the “Serious Answers” course, which will encourage energetic discussion and sustained reflection by both believers and seekers. **This DVD series will be the centerpiece of Adult Education on Sunday mornings (10:00 AM) and Wednesday evenings (6:30 PM), with a different topic at each session.** Facilitated by Evan Hansen and Pastor Nelson.

Wednesday, February 1

Jesus and Christianity-Richard B. Hays, Duke Divinity School

Sunday, February 5

Resurrection-N.T. Wright, Bishop; formerly Oxford University

Wednesday, February 8

The Gnostic Gospels-Ben Witherington, Asbury Theological Seminary

Sunday, February 12

The Sins of the Church-Douglas M. Strong, Wesley Theological Seminary

Wednesday, February 15

Forgiveness-L. Gregory Jones, Duke Divinity School (Dean)

Sunday, February 19

Evil-R. Kendall Soulen, Wesley Theological Seminary

LPGM Mission Minute

The Arcot Lutheran Church, one of LPGM's partners in India is located in the center of one of the most destructive cyclones hitting South India in recent history. Cyclone Thane pummeled the southeastern coast of Tamil Nadu on December 30, 2011, seven years after the same region was devastated by the massive 2004 tsunami. Many lives will be affected for quite some time due to the devastation. Please keep our brothers and sisters in Christ in your prayers. To contribute to relief efforts, send a check to LPGM, 122 West Franklin Avenue Suite 319, Minneapolis MN 55404 or to contribute online go to <http://lutheranpartners.org/contribute>.

Valentine's Day Bake Sale



Come support our Peace Youth on Sunday, Feb 12th and treat your Valentine at the same time. We'll be in the narthex all Sunday morning. Help us raise money for the middle school Camp Wapo and high school Boundary Waters trips. **Calling all bakers!!!** Pull out your favorite recipes, your heart-shaped cookie cutter, your red food coloring and do some baking!! Our congregation loves treats so we need a lot of bakers!! Please package them individually, as a half dozen or a dozen. Bring your cookies, bars, pies, snack mixes, or other sorts of goodies to church on Sunday, Feb 12th as soon as you get to church. Call Sharon Kaare at 952.937.5333 with questions. Thanks!

Service Opportunity At Bridging!

The mission of Bridging is "to provide families and individuals transitioning out of homelessness and poverty with a one-time gift of quality furniture and household goods to stabilize and improve their lives while effectively using community resources."

For years, Peace has supported Bridging with funding and volunteer activities. For 2012, we have decided to increase our involvement in this local community resource by sponsoring a "Dresser Build" every other month. On **Saturday, March 3rd** we will do our first 'Dresser Build' by assembling 10 new dressers at the Bridging site in Bloomington. Peace will pay for these dressers from our Benevolence Funds. We will need 10 to 20 volunteers, 14 years of age or older to assemble the dressers. Time commitment is 2 to 3 hours. We plan to schedule our events for 9:00 AM on Saturday mornings, car-pooling from Peace at 8:45 AM, and returning no later than 12:00 noon.

With this new venture, Peace will be supporting our local community by serving at Loaves & Fishes on the even months of the year and at Bridging on the odd months. Look for sign up sheets in the Narthex. All necessary tools and directions are provided. No experience required. For more information, contact Dave Dynneson at 952-829-9317 or Lou Vietti at 952-881-1374.

New Member Class

Peace will be welcoming new members on **Sunday, March 25**. We will have a new member class on **Thursday, March 15**, at 7pm at the church. Contact the church office to register, 952-944-6510, or if you have any questions.

Loaves and Fishes

We will serve our famous Peace tater-tot hot dish on Tuesday, February 21 at Creekside. Arrive at 5:15pm, serve at 5:30. Sign up at the information desk or contact Dave Dynneson 952-829-9317.

Bridging says "Thanks"

Peace recently received a letter from Bridging thanking us for our donation of \$380. It said in part: "Your gift helps give nearly 5,000 low-income families the opportunity to turn their house into a home. Due to your support, we are able to provide these families with a home where children sleep in warm beds and the entire family eats at the dining room table. With a stable home Bridging's clients can develop the necessary self-esteem to pursue educational and economic opportunities that will forge a path to a brighter future for them and their families."

Sunday Morning Hospitality

We invite you and your family (and maybe a couple of your friends?) to volunteer to provide the goodies and host the fellowship time between services. More details are available at the sign-up desk. If you would like to participate in this Sunday morning ministry, please sign up for a date at the information desk or contact the church office at 952-944-6510 for more information. You can also sign up online via our website- www.peacebloomington.org/adulteducation under the hospitality section. **February 19 is still open!**

Adult Daytime Events

Senior adults! Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with lunch and entertainment at Creekside Community Center in Bloomington. The lunch will be held Friday, March 16 at 11:30 a.m. (Seating begins at 11:15.) The menu is corn beef, cabbage, red potatoes, steamed peas, lime jello, roll, and a mint brownie. The cost is \$3 for seniors 60+ and \$6 for guests under 60. Entertainment will be provided by 40 Shades of Green.



To register, call the City Diner at Creekside at 952-563-4948. Reservations must be made before noon on March 14. Also, please sign up at the information desk so we know whether you will join us for a carpool from Peace, or meet us at Creekside. The Peace carpool will leave at 10:50 a.m. Questions may be directed to Ruth Carlson at 952-941-9148.

Princess Diana exhibit: On Wednesday, April 11, join other Peace members as we head to the Mall of America to tour *Diana, A Celebration*. This is an award-winning exhibition that chronicles the life and work of Diana, Princess of Wales. On loan from Althorp Estate, the Spencer family's 500-year-old ancestral home in England, the exhibition contains 150 objects, ranging from Princess Diana's royal wedding gown and 28 of her designer dresses to family heirlooms, personal mementoes, paintings, 2 diamond tiaras and other priceless family jewels, and rare home movies and photos. We will meet at Peace at noon, tour the exhibit, and come back mid-afternoon. Tickets are \$21.50 plus tax for adults and \$17.50 for seniors. Pay for your ticket on the day of the event. Sign-up at the information desk.

Baby News

Congratulations to Joe and Kim Albert on the birth of their son Jack Thomas Albert. Jack was born on December 29th and weighed 8 pounds, 9 ounces and was 21 inches long. He is the grandson of Peace members Larry and Marilyn Albert, and joins big sister Victoria at home.

Baptism

It was a privilege to baptize Olin William Bauer on January 15 at Peace! Olin is the son of Jacob and Lindsey Bauer. Olin was born January 16, 2011. His sponsors are Nathan Bauer and Kali Jensen.

Women's Choir

Come and sing with the *Peace Women's Choir* on Sunday, Feb. 19th! MaryLynn Mennicke will direct a special SSSAA arrangement of gorgeous a cappella piece. A five voice-part women's piece means we want a lot of ya! All women who want to sing to sing from ages 12-125 are welcome to join us! Rehearsals will take place during Peace Choir rehearsals on Wednesday evenings, and MaryLynn is also available on Sundays following the 11:00 service, and on Saturday mornings. It is recommended that you be available to meet three times with the choir or MaryLynn before performing on the 19th. To coordinate a rehearsal time, contact MaryLynn at marylynn.mennicke@gmail.com or call her at 651-208-3091.

Thank you!

Thank you to Jean Johnson for donating goodies to our Confirmation class! Thank you to Melissa Hasler and Marcie Horner for providing container baskets for the women's restroom. The restroom is much improved!

Bell Ringers

We are looking for 11 handbell players to play for worship on March 25. We'll have 8 rehearsals on Wednesdays at 5:30, starting Wed, Feb. 1. We would like players to attend 6 of the 8 rehearsals. We welcome all ages anyone who can read music. Contact Anita Young at jonandanita@comcast.net if interested!

Sunday School Family Luncheon

Sunday School families, mark your calendars! February 26 following the 11:00 am service, we will be hosting a luncheon just for you: the children and families of our Sunday School program! Plan to come for a time of relaxation, socializing, and free food. Menu to be determined. Please contact Miranda, Jason, or Sue at the office with any dietary needs.

YoungLife Club

Peace has formed a partnership with Bloomington YoungLife to serve the needs of our Sr. High students. YoungLife meets Monday nights from 7:30-9:00 at the Peace House. The Monday night meetings can be described as a "party with a purpose." We'll play a lot of fun games, sing some songs, and finish the night with a ten-minute "club talk." Club is run by a group of young adult leaders from the Bloomington area. Some are teachers, some are students at local colleges, and others are just adults who believe in youth ministry. Jason's role in with these meetings is to coordinate all of the club-talks. This spring we'll be working our way through the Gospel of Luke! There is no sign-up or registration process, just come out Monday night and have some fun!

Important Dates

Wednesday, February 8-Lake Wapogasset Bible Camp information meeting

Sunday, February 12-Sunday School Singers at 11am worship

Wednesday, February 22-Youth Ash Wednesday service

Sunday, February 26-Sunday School Family luncheon (see page 4)

Sunday School Spring Offering

After a huge success this last fall with Sunday School offering, we are once again focusing on a project where the kids are able to see where their offerings are going. This spring, we are partnering with the Service committee in their efforts to help build dressers with Bridging, a local charity here in Bloomington. Every other month, members of Peace go to Bridging to help build dressers for those families and individuals who are transitioning out of homelessness and poverty. We will help support the cost of building these dressers. This will be a great way to provide the younger members of Peace a way to contribute to service opportunities we as a church are already supporting.

February Worship at the Perk

As a Christian: What do you do when you are offered drugs? What do you do if someone you love is using drugs? What do you do if you are addicted to drugs and need help? On Sunday, February 26 from 6:45-8:00 at West Side Perk, we will be dealing with these issues and more from our perspective as Jesus followers. This event is for both students and parents to attend.

Peace at Home

Over the next few months we will begin a new initiative called "Peace at Home." Peace at Home is a series of grade-specific parent and student get-togethers that will run through the spring and summer months at members' homes for the purpose of strengthening the student ministries community at Peace. We are in the process of finalizing dates for March, so keep your eyes open for an invitation from a fellow Peace member with kids the same age as yours! If this sounds like something that you may want to host in the future, please contact Jason Kramme for more information.

Transform the Lunchroom

On Sunday, January 29, more than 40 students participated in the "Transform the Lunchroom" event at Jefferson High School. Just to set the scene, we completely surrounded the lunchroom with clear plastic which we illuminated with huge black lights. When the students arrived, they were given fluorescent painting supplies and simply told to worship through their sense of creativity. The students were able to paint whatever they wanted to. Some painting beautiful scenes, some painted bible verses, and still others painted interesting designs. The students also painted each other--it was quite something to witness! By the end of the night, the space was completely changed and I think that that in some small ways, so was everyone that participated. We look forward to the impact this event will have on our students as well as doing it again next year! Thanks to Jon Young, Claire and Tyler Cadmon, Ben Hanson, Dan and Miranda Kvanli, the Noltner family, and MaryLynn Mennicke for their help and support.

Summer Fun

Vacation Bible School

This year we will hold VBS the week of June 25-29. Mark your calendars! The curriculum this year is called "Sky." The kids will learn that everything is possible with God from friends like Orville the Pig, Pat the Bat, Rockette the Squirrel, Scout the Eagle, and Apollo the Frog. Don't miss it!



Mid-**Summer** dle

School

Summer Trip! If you are entering grades seven through nine, you are invited to go to Lake Wapogasset Bible Camp with us July 15-20! During your week at Wapo you will stay in a cabin with 14 kids and 2 counselors. Each day includes Bible study, worship, cabin activities, field games, and campfire. During your daily scheduled free time you can enjoy swimming, arts and crafts, hanging out with new friends, kayaking, canoeing, treats at the canteen, paddle boating, ultimate frisbee, disc golf, Gaga, soccer, 9-square, water balloon volleyball, basketball, carpetball, foosball, ping-pong, guitar lessons, fishing, mighty mighty scoop noodle challenge, rat-a-tat-tat, medic, snoodles, and more! Daily all-camp activities include capture the flag, servant fair, beach bash, banquet, and masterpiece skit night.

The cost is \$390. \$100.00 is due with your registration. You can find registration forms at the information desk in the narthex as well as a sign-up. Registration forms are due **Wednesday, February 29**. We will have fundraisers throughout the spring to offset the cost of the trip. Make sure to follow this website and our Peace Youth Facebook page to stay in the loop. We will have a representative from Wapo here to talk about camp on **Wednesday, February 8** during confirmation.

Service Assistant Schedule

Date	Service	Usher	Communion Asst	Greeter	Lector	Hospitality
2/5	8:45am	Jack and Andi Bidwell	James Gardner/ Nathanael Ashton-Piper	Ruth and Marilyn Carlson	Lauren Schaaf	Quilters
	11:00am	Ken Cryer, Mary Waters-Cryer and Amy Waters	Kari Solfest/Brenna Noltner	John and Jane Sandness	Amy Lee	x
2/12	8:45am	Jeremy and Julia Macejkovic	xx	Dan and Barb Pjevach	Jacob Upton	Youth Bake Sale
	11:00am	Art and Gloria Johnson	xx	TBA	Maddie Saldin	x
2/19	8:45am	Justin and Kim Myhre	Noah Keith/Zach Lindemann	Randy and Melissa Hoepner	Noah Keith	Open
	11:00am	Mike and Kristin Smith	Karin Smith/Berit Johnson	Steve and Pam Kairies	Stephanie Kaare	x
2/26	8:45am	Ken and Kristen Kokkinen	xx	Karen and Darrell Bramer	Karen Bramer	Men's Group
	11:00am	Ken and Kathy Anderson	xx	Bob and Kim Barnett	Ken Anderson	x

Altar Flowers



Would you like a way to honor a loved one and help decorate the sanctuary at the same time? Bring flowers to display on the altar during both Sunday services! Please consider taking part in this unique opportunity year-round to honor a special occasion or remember a loved one. Sign-up on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

Financial Status — December 2011

	Budgeted Giving	Actual Giving	Budgeted Expenses	Actual Expenses	Difference: Actual Giving to Actual Expenses
December	50,371	66,769	50,371	54,450	12,319
Year-to-date	604,449	570,448	604,449	563,786	6,662

February Calendar

Wednesday, February 1

7:00am Bible Study
 9:15am Women's Bible Study
 9:30am Adult Outing to Scott County
 Historical Society
 11:00am Women's Faith and Life
 2:00pm Staff meeting
 5:30pm Bell Choir
 5:45pm Dinner
 6:30pm Adult Discussion
 6:30pm Confirmation
 7:15pm Peace Choir

Friday, February 3

10:00am Folders
 7:00pm Scrapbooking-Fireside room

Sunday, February 5

8:45am Worship
 10:00am Education Hour
 11:00am Worship

Monday, February 6

6:30pm Financial Peace University

Tuesday, February 7

9:30am Quilters

Wednesday, February 8

7:00am Bible Study
 9:15am Women's Bible Study
 11:00am Women's Faith and Life
 2:00pm Staff meeting
 5:30pm Bell Choir
 5:45pm Dinner
 6:30pm Adult Discussion
 6:30pm Confirmation/camp meeting
 7:15pm Peace Choir

Friday, February 10

10:00am Folders

Saturday, February 11

9:00am Worship and Music Team Meeting

Sunday, February 12

8:45am Worship
 10:00am Education Hour/Bake Sale
 11:00am Worship
 6:00pm Let's Hotdish

Monday, February 13

6:30pm Financial Peace University

Tuesday, February 14

9:30am Quilters

Wednesday, February 15

7:00am Bible Study
 9:15am Women's Bible Study
 11:00am Women's Faith and Life
 2:00pm Staff meeting
 5:30pm Bell choir
 5:45pm Dinner
 6:30pm Adult Discussion
 6:30pm Confirmation
 7:15pm Peace Choir

Friday, February 17

10:00am Folders

Sunday, February 19

8:45am Worship
 10:00am Education Hour
 11:00am Worship

Monday, February 20

6:30pm Financial Peace University

Tuesday, February 21

9:30am Quilters
 5:15pm Loaves and Fishes
 7:00pm Council
 7:00pm Women and Finance Group

Wednesday, February 22

Ash Wednesday

6:15am Citywide Youth Ash
 Wednesday Service/Breakfast
 7:00am Bible Study
 9:15am Women's Bible Study
 11:00am Women's Faith and Life
 2:00pm Staff meeting
 5:30pm Bell Choir
 5:45pm Dinner
 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service
 6:30pm Confirmation
 7:15pm Peace Choir

Friday, February 24

10:00am Folders

Sunday February 26

8:45am Worship
 10:00am Education Hour
 11:00am Worship
 12:00pm Sunday School Luncheon
 7:00pm Worship at the Perk

Monday, February 27

6:30pm Financial Peace University

Tuesday, February 28

9:30am Quilters

Wednesday, February 29

7:00am Bible Study
 9:15am Women's Bible Study
 11:00am Women's Faith and Life
 2:00pm Staff meeting
 5:30pm Bell Choir
 5:45pm Dinner
 6:30pm Lenten Service
 6:30pm Confirmation
 7:15pm Adult Discussion
 7:15pm Peace Choir

Partners is a monthly publication of:

Peace Lutheran Church

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An ELCA Congregation



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Your Church Council:

Leslie Pratt *President*

Ann Ashton-Piper *Vice-President*

Bob Petroff *Treasurer*

Annette Wildenauer *Secretary*

Inga Borggreve

Dave Eide

Melissa Hoepner

Dan Larson

Kim Myhre

Worship:

Sundays 8:45am and 11am

The Mission of Peace is to:

Celebrate God in our lives.

Grow in faith together.

Serve others in the spirit of Christ.

Share the Good News that God loves us all!