

Bless the LORD,
O my soul,
and forget not
all His benefits.

Psalm 103:2, KJV

2025

October



355 E. State Road 120
Fremont, IN 46737
Church Phone: (260) 495-4306
www.plcms.org

A member of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



PEACE RESOURCES

We welcome you to join us for Sunday Worship!

Sundays: 8:00am online and in-person

10:30am in-person

Mondays: 6:30pm in-person

OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

CHURCH PHONE NUMBER — 260-495-4306

OFFICE EXTENSIONS:

Secretary- 301

Pastor Jared Rudolph- 303

Kristin McGee- 304

Wee Creations Office- 305

Church Service Hours- 321

WEBSITE — www.plcms.org

EMAIL ADDRESSES — at church:

Pastor Jared Rudolph - PastorRudolph@plcms.org

Sara Miller – Director@weecreations.org

Kristin McGee – Admin@plcms.org

Emily Disbro – Secretary@plcms.org

Stephanie Paradine – ComfortDog@plcms.org

Mary Anne Hibbard - mhibbard@plcms.org

Judy Scharpenberg - kjscharp@mchsi.com



Church Text Messages & Email App

To sign up for church text messages:

Send a text to the number 81010.

In the message type “@peacefrem”.

You will receive a text asking for your name.

Respond with your first and last name.

You will receive text messages regarding church updates.

If you have already signed up, you do not need to sign up again.



RightNow Media – Please remember all the resources that are available to you and your family free of charge through RightNow Media! It is a clearinghouse of videos, Bible studies, and podcasts that help you grow in your faith toward God and love for others! If you haven't signed up (and even if you have!) be sure to access this amazing library of Christian material! (Checkout the link in our e-news to sign up!)



E-News – Just a reminder that we continue to publish our e-news and announcements every week. If you haven't signed up to receive e-news through your email, please email Pastor Teeple and he will get you signed up! If you did sign up and haven't seen it, please double check your SPAM folder; it is an email that comes from the secretary's email address: secretary@plcms.org



A Note from Pastor Teeple

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write this final newsletter article, I want to pause and simply say thank you. For the past ten years, you have welcomed me and my family with love, prayed for us, supported us, and shared your lives with us. Serving as your pastor has been one of the greatest blessings of my life, and I am deeply grateful for the journey we have shared together in Christ. Thank YOU for the cards and messages of Christian love that you have sent these past weeks; your words mean so much to me!

We are now entering a season of change. Change often stirs up many emotions—excitement, sadness, hope, even uncertainty. In moments like these, I am reminded of St. Paul's words to St. Timothy. Paul encourages Timothy, and the congregations he served, with a simple truth: listen for the voice of Christ, and stay rooted in God's Word.

That same encouragement is for us. The world is noisy, full of distractions and half-truths, but Christ's voice is steady and sure. He remains our Good Shepherd. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. While everything else around us changes, He does not. That is why, throughout my ministry here, I have repeated a simple mantra that I hope you carry with you: **God is in control and Christ is victorious.**

Those words have anchored me, and I pray they anchor you, too. They remind us that we do not walk through life's changes alone. God's hand is steady, Christ has already won the victory, and nothing—not even transitions or uncertainties—can take away the hope we have in Him.

Over the past decade, I have seen this congregation live out that truth. You have been rooted in God's Word, caring for one another, serving your neighbors, and passing on the faith to the next generation. Like trees planted by streams of water, you have borne fruit in season. And as you move forward, you will not walk this road alone. Pastor Rudolph will continue to faithfully shepherd you with wisdom and care, helping you listen for the voice of Christ, stay rooted in God's Word, and live out the truth that God is in control and Christ is victorious.

Though I will soon serve in a different place, please know that you will always remain in my prayers. Thank you for letting me walk alongside you, preach and teach among you, and share in your lives. What a joy and honor it has been to serve as your pastor. Hold fast to Christ's promises. In every season, listen for His voice, stay rooted in His Word, and never forget: **God is in control and Christ is victorious.**

Our peace is Jesus Christ.
Pastor Jeff Teeple



A Note from Pastor Rudolph

"Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

-1 Peter 4:8-10

Love is the foundation of the Christian faith. God loved us so much that He sent His Son to die for us, to take the punishment we deserve and endure it for the goal set before Him: the salvation of sinners to live with Him for eternity. From this great love for us, we then turn to love others. Love flows from God, to us, to the world around us. This is what we mean when we pray after the Lord's Supper, "strengthen us through [Christ's body and blood] in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another" (LSB p. 201). Love flows from God through His Word, His Baptism, and His body and blood to us, forgiving us our sins and making us new creations that want to bring this same love to everyone we interact with on a daily basis. From our faith flows "fervent love toward one another," in other words, we serve others.

As Peter says, *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.* We all have gifts, talents, and abilities. Some are able to help with physical tasks, some can help repair things, some can help teach, and some can provide care. We all have different gifts given to us by God that are useful to our neighbors. It's not that God needs them for Himself, but the person that needs our good works is the person sitting next to us at home, in the pew, or in our community. God can always work miracles, even today. But He has chosen to use us to do the grand things He has planned for the people in our lives. He has chosen, not to make a grand display of it, but to use us simple human beings to accomplish great things. What a miracle it is that the Lord of the Universe chose me/you/us to be the means, His own hands and feet, by which He acts in the lives of those around us and the way He shows grace to our neighbors! Thanks be to God for such an honor!

At Peace, we do many things for this very purpose. As we say in our Mission Statement, we "Care and Celebrate" as God's people here in the Tri-State area, and we prove it by all the care ministries we offer in our building. Griefshare, Stephen Ministry, Comfort Dog Ministry, Wee Creations, and many more things all do this work of providing service to our community. Yet we do them all with the focus on Christ. It is God who has cared for us, and now we get to serve and care for our members and community in the same way. If you have ever been interested in serving with these groups, now is the time!

A great opportunity for this kind of service is coming through the Lutheran Early Response Team training, aka Disaster Response Training, coming up on October 18th. This training will provide us with the knowledge and skills needed to properly serve our community in the event of a natural disaster here in our community. This could be useful here in Steuben County or even regionally in Fort Wayne, at Camp Lutherhaven, or elsewhere. Additionally, this training will certify any LCMS Lutherans (although

continued on next page →



A Note from Pastor Rudolph

anyone 14+ can attend and learn!) to travel to areas impacted by floods, hurricanes, or otherwise to help those communities recover and rebuild. All at the same time, we are showing Christ's love to people who need a little Good News in their lives.

If you are able to help people in need, please consider coming and learning the skills needed to help in disaster situations. There is no commitment of service, but there is opportunity to serve. The training starts at 9:00 on Saturday, October 18th and runs until 3:00. Think about what blessings God can deliver through by setting aside just one Saturday! Use the announcement later in this newsletter to sign up, create an account at <https://www.lcms-lert.org/need/index/12> or call the Church office and we can help you get signed up. It may be that God call us to action, or He may not. But He has given us the opportunity to be prepared. Let us receive this gift and opportunity joyfully and learn these skills so that we will not be helpless in crisis but will be ready and able to help our neighbors in need. In so doing, we will follow the Holy Spirit's call through Peter, *to serve one another as stewards of God's varied grace!*

Pastor Jared Rudolph



LERT Volunteer Training

Join us for Disaster Response Training!



LERT TRAINING DAY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

9:00AM-3:00PM

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP HALL

FREMONT, IN



To register, scan the QR code or visit:

<https://www.lcms-lert.org/need/index/12>

Thoughts and Musings from an Aging Pastor

By Pastor Don Wunrow

In 1940, about 85% of people believed in God and attended church. Today only a little over 40% believe in God. A little over 30% belong to and attend church.

Over the years, I have talked to many. They often bring up how hard it is for them to understand how we can believe in the Bible; they talk about the Big Bang theory, evolution and how the universe happened by chance. Many of the people I talk to have no idea what happens when one dies. A lot of people believe when you die, it is all over.

Shortly after I was born, I was baptized. My parents and sponsors answered on my behalf-just like some of the early church fathers did. I grew up going to church and Sunday School. I was confirmed as a teen, then later married in the church. I was pastor in a couple of churches and have since retired. I now attend the 8:00am worship service as a member here at Peace.

As long as I can remember, the members of all these churches have been like a family. We get together once a week, sing hymns together, confess our faith together, hear a message from God's Word, and pray for others, just as they have done for me in the past. I cannot imagine what my life would have been without my church family! It is a family in which I am loved, looked out for, and appreciated.

Unfortunately, non-believers do not have anything like that. When I die, I know there will be something beyond comprehension waiting for me and I am looking forward to it. It is all because of Jesus, who died so that we might live forever.

To God be the glory.

October is

Pastor
APPRECIATION MONTH

**Let's remember
this month to lift
up our pastors
in prayer.
THANK YOU
for all you do!**



A BOLD STEP

A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR CONCORDIA LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

You're invited! Leadership from Concordia Lutheran High School in Fort Wayne will be here on Sunday, Oct. 5 to share exciting news about the high school's capital campaign, A Bold Step. Learn how **you** can be part of this God-sized journey that will expand the high school's reach and impact future generations.

RSVP today by scanning the QR code.



**SUNDAY, OCT. 5
11:45 A.M.**

New Chancel Paraments

Peace has been blessed with new chancel paraments and pastors' stoles! These beautiful linens were dedicated to the glory of God on Sunday, September 21. They were given as a gift to Peace, paid for by Pastor Don Wunrow in memory of his wife Nancy, and designed and created by Pastor Don's son, Jeff Wunrow.



Monday Worship Change Notices:

***There will be no evening worship on Monday, October 20.
Monday evening worship on October 27 will begin at 6:00pm.***



THE OLD SANCTUARY CROSS

The Shield of St. Jude and St. Simon the Zealot

The Shield of St. Jude

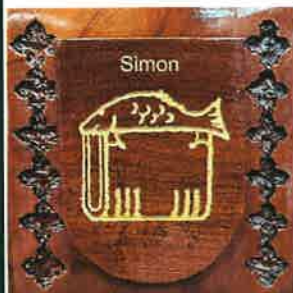


St. Jude the Apostle also went by the nicknames Thaddeus and/or Judas – although he should not be confused with Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus! The official seal of St. Jude is a ship under full sail—a fitting emblem for one of Christ’s original messengers. The ship, long a symbol of the Church itself, represents the mission of carrying the Gospel across the seas and into every corner of the world.

For St. Jude, the image is especially meaningful. Tradition holds that he traveled great distances to proclaim Christ, bringing hope to communities facing persecution and despair. Just as a ship navigates uncertain waters, Jude’s faith guided him through trials until his martyrdom for the faith.

Today, the seal continues to inspire believers. It reminds us that the Church is like a vessel: sometimes battered by storms, yet always moved forward by the wind of the Holy Spirit. For those who carry this symbol – St. Jude has been called “the patron of difficult cases” —the ship is both a symbol of courage and a call to trust God’s guidance, even when the seas of life are rough.

The Shield of St. Simon the Zealot



The symbol of St. Simon the Zealot is traditionally represented by a fish resting on top of an open book. This emblem reflects Simon’s mission as one of the twelve apostles chosen by Christ. The book symbolizes the Word of God—the Gospel message entrusted to the apostles to proclaim to the world. The fish, one of the earliest Christian symbols, points to baptism, new life, and the call to be “fishers of men.”

Together, the two images capture Simon’s role in the growth of the Church: a faithful preacher who carried the Good News across distant lands. While little is known about the details of his journeys, tradition remembers Simon as a zealous witness who remained steadfast in the mission he received from Christ.

For today’s believers, Simon’s seal is a reminder that faith must be both learned and lived. Just as the fish and book belong together, so too does hearing God’s Word and putting it into action. In times of doubt or difficulty, the seal of St. Simon encourages us to stay rooted in the Gospel and to trust that Christ still calls us to be his witnesses.



Hospitality Opportunities

Looking for an fun opportunity to serve? We are in need of snack providers and coffee brewers for Sunday mornings. *Help is needed in the following areas:*

Snacks: If you are interested in providing snacks between Sunday worship services for the fall season, we are looking for approximately four dozen cookies, doughnuts or coffee cake by 8:45am each week.

Coffee Brewers: We need a few volunteers willing to brew coffee on Sundays. Coffee would need to be made by the 9:15am for the Bible Study hour. Instructions on how to use the coffee maker as well as supplies needed will be available in the kitchen.

If you would like to contribute or participate in either of these opportunities, please see the sign-up sheet in the kitchen serving window.



PRAISE TEAM REHEARSAL KICK-OFF SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19 12:00PM-3:00PM

In June of 2022, Peace Lutheran Church formed its very own Praise Team to incorporate contemporary worship songs into our worship services – including an additional service on Monday evenings – accompanied by live music. It is our mission to glorify God and edify the people of Peace through the gift of music in our worship services. The dedication of these singers and instrumentalists is so appreciated.

We are looking for more vocalists to become a part of the Praise Team. You are invited to attend AN AFTERNOON OF PRAISE on Sunday, October 19 from 12:00pm-3:00pm to see what we're all about. Come join us for an introductory rehearsal where we plan to learn old and new songs. Lunch will be provided for participants. For more information, please contact Judy Scharpenberg at 260-248-1166 or kjscharp@mchsi.com.



HANDBELL PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

If you have an interest in ringing handbells, either as a regular participant or substitute, please contact Mary Anne Hibbard at 586-764-3561.

Stephen Ministry



For the last six years our Stephen Ministry Leadership Team consisted of Pastor Teeple, Rick Kirkton and Ellen Luepke. With Pastor Teeple accepting a divine call to minister at Trinity Lutheran Church in Frankfort Germany, questions arise. Will it be more difficult to identify those whose life journeys is severely stressful right now? The answer is surely "Yes!"

BUT, Pastor Rudolph will become the eyes and ears of the pastoral staff, listening to members and identifying persons (both men and women) who could benefit from a Stephen Minister walking beside them during a difficult time in their lives. Yet this is not solely the "job" of our pastor. He shares this responsibility with each of us as members of the

Body of Christ. We need to be the "senses" of Jesus, being in relationship with one another so we can identify those around us who are hurting, struggling, needing.

Are you an officer of our congregation? A committee member? An organization member? A volunteer? A worshiper? We have a motto in this caring ministry - "THINK STEPHEN!" Wherever God has placed you at Peace Lutheran Church, this is a good mantra to remember as we care for one another - "THINK STEPHEN!"

Grieving a loss? Know someone who is?

griefshare.org/holidays

GriefShare

Surviving
the Holidays

Encouragement, support, and valuable tools to
navigate the challenges of the season.

Join us for this 2-hour seminar

Date & time

**Tuesday, November 11
2:00pm and 6:30pm**

Location

**Peace Lutheran Church
355 E State Road 120
Fremont, IN 46737**

For people who've lost a loved one, the Thanksgiving and Christmas season can be bleak. "Surviving the Holidays" is an event that offers support and coping tools on how to navigate the season. See Luanne Haupt with any questions or to pre-register.



Family Promise works to help families facing homelessness, regain their stability and independence, and by partnering with this mission, we have shown the love of Christ in a practical and powerful way! Your commitment to serving these families during difficult times reflects the heart of our church family!

Thank you for being the hands (cooking, baking, and praying) and feet (delivering meals) of Jesus! You are indeed a blessing! Contact Connie Sweeney with questions on how to become involved in this very needed and worthwhile mission!

UPCOMING BIBLE STUDIES

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Women's Bible Study

The women's Bible Study will meet weekly on Mondays at 10:00am in the small conference room. All ladies are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Deaconess Mary Anne Hibbard at mhibbard@plcms.org or call 586-764-3561.



Online Bible Study

Online Bible Study

Our online Zoom Bible studies meet on Wednesdays at 10:00am. Contact Pastor Rudolph or the church office if you would like the link to join.



Thursday Adult Bible Study

We look forward to meeting with you on Thursday mornings at 9:30am in Peace's Fellowship hall for our weekly Bible study. Topic for this study will be "Thy Kingdom Come": What is God's Kingdom? How does it relate to the church, the government, and the nation of Israel? We will take a look at how God describes His kingdom in the Bible and ways we can understand it in our modern context.



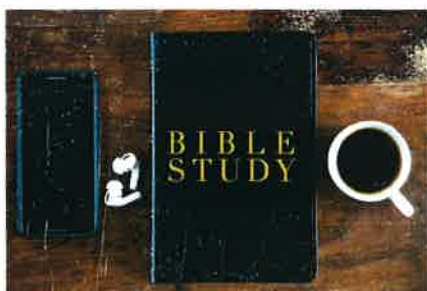
Read Through the Bible Study

Resumes Wednesday, October 1 at 12:30pm

Join Pastor Rudolph on Wednesday afternoons to Read through the Bible once again!

We will focus on the New Testament Gospels and the book of Acts as we hope to grow in our Bible knowledge and read firsthand about Jesus's life and the beginning of the Church!

We will meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of October until May from 12:30pm-1:30pm.



Sunday Morning Bible Class

Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:15am, between worship services for Bible class!





Greetings! We are excited for our 34th year of learning at Wee Creations! We strive to provide children in our program with consistency, predictability, warmth and encouragement as he or she experiences the learning opportunities available in our classrooms! We emphasize developmentally and individually appropriate practices to ensure each child's success.

Peace Lutheran Church began in 1983 and has consistently grown in outreach to the tri-state area. We began our preschool in 1992 as a ministry in service to God and our community. In 2008 we expanded our ministry with the opening of our full day, year round program. In 2024, we expanded our ministry again with the new construction and renovation of our whole building. Wee Creations Ministries has seven full classrooms that provide early childhood education to children ages 6 weeks through Preschool. We are open year round, 7:00 am to 5:30 pm.

OUR DIRECTOR

Sara Miller became our Director in May 2008. She was born and raised in Fremont, graduated from Tri-State (Trine), and taught at MSD before coming to Wee Creations. Sara and Scott are both active members of the congregation. Their 3 children are all proud Wee Creations graduates.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of WCM is to share the love of Jesus Christ with children and their families by providing them with a Christ-centered, quality, and developmentally appropriate education.

PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

As a ministry of Peace Lutheran Church, Wee Creations preschool and daycare provides a nurturing, Christ-centered environment. Our curriculum is based on the Word of God and designed to enhance the child's spiritual, social-emotional, cognitive, and physical development. Our qualified, Christian staff provides an age and developmentally appropriate curriculum, which places an emphasis on the importance of play as a means of learning. Events, programs, and activities are provided to support the whole family in their growth and development.

God has richly blessed Wee Creations with a wonderful staff full of loving teachers, amazing children and parents, and a supportive congregation that wants to see WCM succeed. We look forward to another year of serving our community, sharing the love Jesus with children and their families and preparing the next generation of kiddos for kindergarten. Thank you your continued support!

Classrooms	Current Enrollment
Infants (2 classrooms)	15
Toddlers (2 classrooms)	19
Preschool (3 classrooms)	36
Total Students	70
We currently have a staff of 17 teachers. We have full time and part time teachers.	We expect 15-20 more children to join our school during the school year

TRUNK OR TREAT

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27

4:30PM-6:00PM

Peace Lutheran Church will be hosting a Trunk or Treat event for families of Peace Lutheran Church and Wee Creations!

We invite all Peace and Wee Creation families to join us for food and fun on Monday, October 27, during our Trunk or Treat event! Come trick or treat in the safety of our East parking lot and enjoy hot dogs and chips in the Fellowship Hall. We will end the night with worship at 6:00pm for everyone!

If you would like to bring your car (trunk) to pass out candy to visiting families, look for a parking spot sign-up sheet soon on the information desk.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING *made easy!*

Are you in search of the perfect Christmas present for that special someone?

Look no further than gift cards purchased from Wee Creations!



While it seems hard to believe (or even think about!), Christmas is right around the corner. Wee Creations will again be offering gift cards for purchase during the holiday season in amounts from \$5 up to \$1000 from hundreds of participating retailers. A percentage of each gift card purchase will directly benefit Wee Creations Preschool and Daycare.

Look for order forms available in the next few weeks. Order deadline will be December 14th to ensure delivery by Christmas. Contact WCM Director Sara Miller or stop by the church office with any questions.

THANK YOU, AMBER!



On Sunday, September 21, after the 10:30am worship service, Peace Lutheran Church recognized and gave thanks to God for the faithful service of Amber Vonderau, who has dedicated years of love, energy, and prayer to the young people of this congregation, as Youth Director. In honor of her years of service to Peace, Amber was presented with a Blue Heart of Mercy and Compassion. The Heart is the universal symbol conveying love. Blue is the color of hope and the fish is a symbol of God's saving grace. The scripture on Amber's fish is from 1 Thessalonians 5:13 and read "we esteem you very highly in love because of your work!"

Serving as a Youth Director is no easy task; it takes patience, creativity, endurance, and perhaps more pizza than anyone should reasonably eat. Even more, it requires selfless dedication and self-forgetfulness, that is, a willingness to put others before yourself and step outside your comfort zone.

At the heart of her calling has been a God-given mission: to love, encourage, and befriend each young person without judgment. Through Sunday School lessons and Bible studies, lock-ins and sleepless youth gatherings – through countless personal moments, she has shared in the lives of these young people. She has cheered from the sidelines at theater and music performances, athletic events, graduations, and milestones, reminding them that they are seen, valued, and deeply loved by Jesus.

Because of her faithful service, many young people have encountered Jesus and His love in tangible and winsome ways. Seeds of faith have been planted, nurtured, and grown—sometimes through prayer and Scripture, and sometimes through laughter or tears—but always with the love of Christ.

Thank you, Amber, for your many years of faithful service to the Lord, to our youth, and to this congregation. Your quiet strength, your joyful spirit, and your servant's heart have left a mark that will last for generations and into eternity!



Peace Blessing Boxes

We are excited to announce the addition of two blessing boxes at Peace Lutheran Church!

Located just inside the entrance of our west parking lot, these blessing boxes serve as a small scale, outside self-serve food pantry.

The blessing boxes provide an opportunity to serve others in our community. Peace members are welcomed to place non-perishable food items inside the boxes at anytime as a blessing to those who receive it.

Items in the boxes are available to anyone struggling with hunger or food insecurity. Items may be taken anonymously and without judgement or cost. If you, or someone you know, are challenged by an over-stretched grocery budget, we encourage you to stop by and take all that you need to see you through.



CHAIR YOGA

Chair Yoga will continue through October!

Wednesday afternoons 12:30pm-1:30pm

Peace Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

Chair Yoga is a gentle form of yoga that can improve flexibility, decrease stress, and reduce joint strain.

The suggested fee for each class is what you can afford up to \$5. Additionally, items will be collected at each class for donation to the Food Co-Op at Concordia Theological Seminary. See Jessica Durham with any questions.



MISSIONARY SPEAKER

As part of our Thursday morning Bible Study, on October 16 at 9:30am, Peace will be hosting two missionaries that are heading into the mission field with Lutheran Bible Translators. Nathan and Sarah Federwitz will be giving a presentation to help us understand how Christ's Kingdom comes even today through their mission work and the work of Lutheran Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea.



Men's Bible Breakfast

Saturday, October 11

8:00am

Peace Fellowship Hall

All men are welcome to attend breakfast, which will be followed by a short Bible study.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Young Adult Fellowship Event

Sunday, October 19

7:00pm

Pastor Rudolph's House

We look forward to another Young Adult Fellowship event. More details to come in the next few weeks!

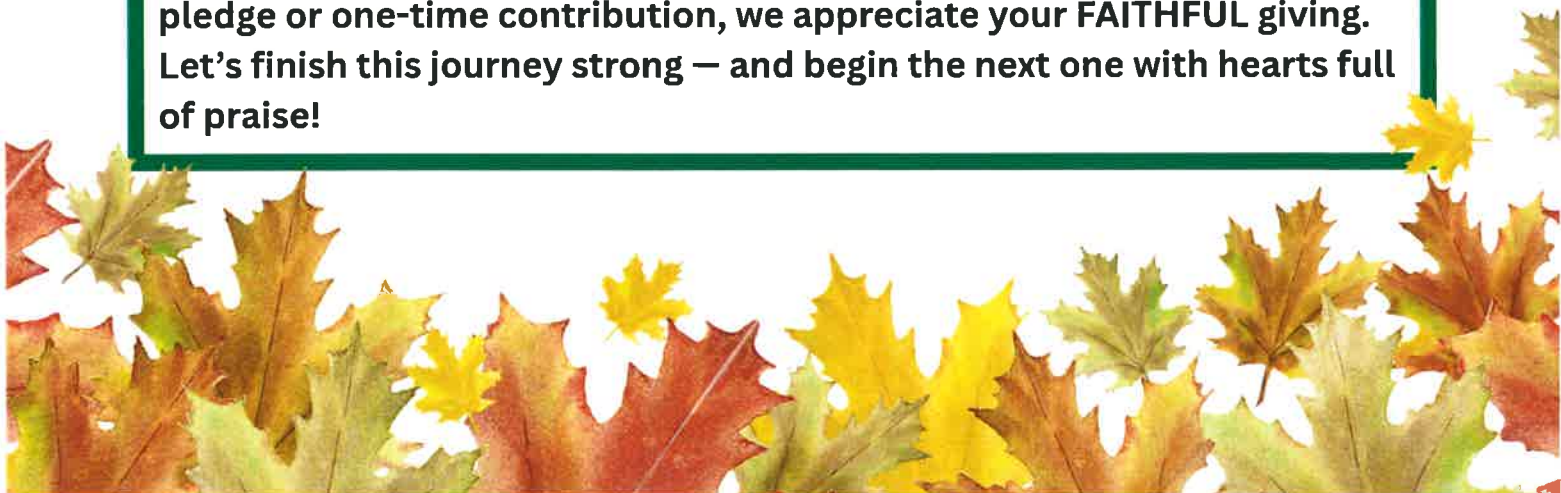


CAPITAL CAMPAIGN AND MORTGAGE UPDATE



Three years ago, Peace members generously pledged over \$1,100,000 toward our building project. By the end of September, our construction loan principal was \$83,000. With these FINAL three months left of our campaign, we will yet receive an almost \$40,000.

As we approach the new year, any amount given-large or small-brings us closer to entering 2026 mortgage free! If you feel led to make a final pledge or one-time contribution, we appreciate your FAITHFUL giving. Let's finish this journey strong — and begin the next one with hearts full of praise!





HEARTS OF MERCY AND COMPASSION

October 2025



Peace Lutheran Church and Lutheran Church Charities recently gifted Ron and Sandy Heilman a Heart in recognition of their volunteer roles here at Peace. Most recently, Sandy served as Director of Fellowship and Hospitality and while Ron has previously served as a deacon and usher.

The Heart is the universal symbol conveying love. Blue is the color of hope and the fish is a symbol of God's saving grace. The scripture on their fish is from Philippians 1:3 *"I thank my God every time I remember you."*

In appreciation, Sandy writes:

"Ron & I want to thank everyone at Peace Lutheran Church for the beautiful heart with the wishes from so many written on it. We are overcome with happiness reading the

comments and sadness because we will miss everyone. Peace has been our "favorite" church and has felt like home to us with everyone's friendliness and caring. We will miss you all!

God bless you all!

Love,

Ron & Sandy Heilman"





**You are cordially invited to attend
Donation Day
Tuesday, October 14, 2025
on the campus of
Concordia Theological Seminary
6600 N. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, Indiana
Registration starts at 8:30am**

Donation Day has been an annual tradition at Concordia Theological Seminary since it was started on the Springfield campus in the early 1900s. For over 100 years, women from congregations near and far have collected donations of food and clothing for our students and their families and brought them to the Seminary.

The tradition continues in 2025, hosted by The Seminary Guild.

Spend a morning on campus: drop off donations, tour the Food and Clothing Co-ops, worship in Kramer Chapel, learn how congregations and LWML groups are supporting the work, and eat lunch with other guests and students in the Dining Hall. Lunch is available for \$12 per person, payable at morning registration.

To reserve your space, RSVP to CTSFW coordinator, Cindy Powell at semguild@ctsfw.edu or call (260) 485-0209.



The Food Co-Op at Concordia Theological Seminary is open to all seminary students and their families. Food and household items are available to these families at no charge. Students volunteer service time for the privilege of shopping. The Food Co-Op is set up like a small grocery store.

Peace contributes monthly to the Food Co-Op through the donations of members. There is a large blue bucket that sits underneath the mailboxes; that bucket is our donation bin for the Food Co-Op. Please consider donating each month!

This month's donation wish list items:

- flour
- sugar (brown, white, or powdered)
- oil (canola, vegetable, etc.)
- baking soda
- baking powder
- chocolate chips



DOVE Tales

"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven."

Ecclesiastes 3:1 ESV

Happy Autumn, my friends!

It's been so busy since the end of summer! You never know where I'll turn up next or what I'm going to do. For instance, you might see me at a dentist's office, over at Cameron Hospital, checking up on my first responder friends, under a church pew, or chasing balls in the gym (or leaves from the trees). I'm going to retirement homes, nursing homes – maybe even at your home! Let's just say I'm a pup who likes to go places.

You will find me in area schools, too. In Fremont, one of my elementary friends graduated to middle school and she was very happy that I could see her at middle school, too! Isn't that something, that she loves me so much?

One of my extra special friends – Lois Dehr – had one of my stuffies up where she could see it from her bed. She didn't want anyone to move it. One of her great grandchildren was given a stuffy, too – it was her first ever and she loves to talk to it just like Lois did! So I've comforted Lois, her children, her grandchildren, and now her great grandchild – that warms my heart!

I especially like to put my paws in your lap or cuddle on the floor, up close and personal. You can tell me jokes, read to me, trust me with secrets, hug me, even cry into my fur. I'll never tell! You might be happy, sad, hurting, lonely, sick (or homesick like some of my Trine University friends), or happy, silly, and wiggly. I want to be one of your best love-you-through-anything friends. You know what I mean?

Now I am off to protect my Lambie from some other pups with whom I play.

Let's get together at church!

Love,
Dove

PS-To be part of Team Dove, email Stephanie Paradine at comfortdog@plcms.org







October is National Depression and Mental Health Screening Month

This month, we focus on the importance of early screening, intervention, and turning awareness into action.

Why Screening is Crucial

- Early Identification: Mental health screenings are vital for identifying depression and other conditions early, leading to improved outcomes and more effective support.
- Accessibility: Organizations like Mental Health America offer free, anonymous, and clinically validated online screening tools, making it easy for individuals to check their mental health status.
- Connecting to Resources: Completing a screening test immediately connects individuals with resources to support their mental health journey.

Turning Awareness into Action: Key Themes & Steps

- Turn Awareness into Action: The primary theme for 2025 encourages individuals and communities to translate understanding into concrete steps, such as seeking help, supporting others, and advocating for policy changes.
- Promote Self-Care: Prioritize foundational practices like balanced nutrition, regular exercise, sufficient sleep, and maintaining connections with family and friends to foster resilience and well-being.
- Foster Open Dialogue: Encourage open conversations about mental health challenges to reduce stigma, build understanding, and make it easier for people to seek help.
- Utilize Community & Support: Emphasize the power of community and supportive relationships in promoting mental well-being and creating a sense of belonging.
- Advocate for Change: Take action by contacting lawmakers, supporting initiatives like Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHCs), and sharing information to improve mental health care access and support systems.

How to Participate

- Take an Online Screening: Visit the [National Mental Health America Screening Tools](#) site to complete free, anonymous mental health screens.
- Share Information: Use hashtags like #MentalHealthAwarenessMonth and #EndTheStigma to share messages on social media and help promote mental wellbeing.
- Educate Yourself and Others: Learn about mental health conditions like depression, understand that it's more than just feeling sad, and help others get the support they need.



SHOEBOX SEASON IS HERE!

Start Packing

National Collection Week
Nov. 17 - 24

Shoebox Drop-Off Center



Operation Christmas Child delivers great joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ to children in need around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes.

Local churches in more than 100 nations hand out Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts at festive outreach events where the Gospel is presented in a child-friendly way.

Each box becomes a tangible expression of God's love to the child, their family, and their community. Many shoebox recipients also participate in a 12-lesson follow-up discipleship program, *The Greatest Journey*.

We need your help to fill shoeboxes here at Peace! **Items such as small toys, pens, and pencils are especially welcome.** Look soon for the collection tables in the East Lobby; you may place shoebox gift items you wish to donate on them. We look forward to announcing our Packing Party event date in the next few weeks!

Shoebox Gift Suggestions

Toys

- stuffed animals
- dolls
- figurines
- musical instruments
- balls
- toy cars
- jump ropes
- yo-yo
- building blocks
- dinosaurs
- toys that light up or make noise

School Supplies

- pens, pencils, crayons and colored pencils
- pencil sharpeners
- notebooks and paper
- solar calculators
- coloring books

Accessories

- socks
- sunglasses
- hair bows and clips
- jewelry and watches

Personal Care Items

- toothbrushes
- washcloths
- combs and hair brushes



DO NOT INCLUDE

New this year: soap

candy, toothpaste, gum, used or damaged items, scary or war-related items, seeds, food, liquids or lotions, medications or vitamins, breakable items or glass containers, aerosol cans.

Fall Soup Recipes

Harvest Pumpkin Soup

- 2 Tbsp. unsalted butter
- 1 large potato, peeled and chopped
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 4 1/2 cups chicken broth
- 1 (15-ounce) can pure pumpkin
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
- 1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg
- 1/2 pt. heavy cream (16 tablespoons)



Step 1:

In a large pot over medium heat, melt butter. Add potato and onion and cook, stirring occasionally, until onion is translucent, about 8 minutes. Add chicken broth and bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat to low, and cook until potato is tender, 10 to 12 minutes.

Step 2:

Stir in pumpkin. Using an immersion blender, purée mixture until smooth. (Or, use a blender to purée mixture in batches, then return to pot.) Stir in 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/8 teaspoon pepper, and nutmeg. Increase heat to medium-high and bring mixture to a boil. Cover, reduce heat to low, and cook for 10 minutes. Stir in cream and heat thoroughly. Season with salt and pepper, if desired. Serve hot.

Original recipe found at: <https://www.countryliving.com/food-drinks/recipes/a4117/harvest-pumpkin-soup-recipe-clv1112/>

Easy Tomato Bisque Soup

- 3 Tbsp unsalted butter
- 1 cup onion, diced
- 56 ounces (2 cans) WHOLE canned tomatoes with juices
- 2/3 cup heavy whipping cream
- 1 tsp salt



- Bring a pot to medium high heat and add butter and onions.
- Reduce heat to medium low and cook covered until onions are soft and translucent, about 7 minutes.
- Add whole canned tomatoes with juices and salt.
- Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer covered for about 30 minutes.
- Remove from heat and puree in a food processor, blender, or use an immersion blender.
- Mix in heavy cream. Rewarm soup on low if needed.
- Add salt to taste. Add cream to taste if you want it richer and more velvety.

Original recipe found at: <https://www.countryliving.com/food-drinks/recipes/a4117/harvest-pumpkin-soup-recipe-clv1112/>

October

BIRTHDAYS

10/2 Dave Emch
10/4 Denise Ward
10/5 Shane Ross
10/6 Rebecca Mann
Liv Bergquist
10/9 Mike Keele
Larry Reidenbach
Andrew Laughlin
10/10 Jean Bienz
Kristin McGee
Bill Richter
Dan Thiele
10/12 Judy Scharpenberg
Patty Hartman
10/13 Kelley Smith
10/14 Jim VonSeggern
10/15 Ken Hullinger
Eden Ross
10/16 Ethan Miller
Steve Kobelak
10/17 Philip Mann
10/18 Joe Burelison
Carole Diehm
10/21 Jill Goeglein
10/22 Sheryl Ahlersmeyer
10/23 Tirzah Rudolph
10/25 Pat Brewbaker
Audra James
Stephanie Paradine
10/26 Gene Sumney
Christy Mann
10/27 Laura McCrea
Sara Miller
10/28 Ann Goeglein
10/30 Karen Dalrymple
10/31 JoAnne Rowe

ANNIVERSARIES

10/1/1994 Tim & Traci Bruick
10/1/2005 Travis & Amber Vonderau
10/9/1970 Terry & Linda Edgar
10/10/1987 Gregg & Lisa Bauer
10/11/1975 Rick & Chris Hanke
10/11/1980 Stan & Connie Sweeney
10/11/1997 Chad & Hope Korte
10/14/1961 Ed & Anne Peters
10/14/2000 Bob & Jennifer Shirey
10/26/1985 Ron & Susan Lovell
10/27/2012 Larry & Karen Oberst
10/28/1967 Mike & Linda Keele
10/28/1989 Joe & Jodie Burelison

Altar Flowers

10/5/2025 Johnson families
10/12/2025 Diana Patterson
10/19/2025 Larry & Marie Font
10/26/2025 Dan Thiele



The 2026 Altar Flower Calendar is up in the West Lobby next to the mailboxes. Cost is \$40.

Please sign up for the week(s) you desire.
You may also designate a special remembrance.

Not able to be at church?
Contact Carol Gepfert, or the church office to sign up.

October 2025

October 2025							November 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3	4						1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			Oct 1 9:30am Sewing Sisters 10:00am Zoom 12:30pm Yoga 12:30pm Through the Bible Study 4:30pm Pickleball 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Adult Choir	2 9:30am Adult Bible Study	3 Pastor's Day Off	4
5 8:00am Worship 9:00am SS/BC-9:15am 10:30am Worship/HC 11:30am Concordia HS Town Hall	6 10:00am Women's Bible Study 5:30pm Scouts 6:30pm Worship/HC	7 10:00am WCM Chapel	8 9:30am Sewing Sisters 10:00am Zoom Bible Study 12:30pm Yoga 4:30pm Pickleball 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Adult Choir	9 9:30am Adult Bible Study	10 Pastor's Day Off 10:00am SM Supervision	11 8:00am Private Appointment 8:00am Men's Bible Breakfast
12 8:00am Worship/HC 9:00am SS/BC-9:15am 10:30am Worship	13 10:00am Women's Bible Study 5:30pm Scouts 6:30pm Worship	14 10:00am WCM Chapel 4:30pm CD Meeting 6:30pm BOD meeting	15 9:30am Sewing Sisters 10:00am Zoom 12:30pm Yoga 12:30pm Through the Bible Study 4:30pm Pickleball 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Adult Choir	16 9:30am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Missionary Presentation	17 Pastor's Day Off	18 Gym reserved-private party 9:00am LERT training-FH
19 8:00am Worship 9:00am SS/BC-9:15am 10:30am Worship/HC 12:00pm Praise Team practice 7:00pm YA	20 10:00am Women's Bible Study 5:30pm Scouts 6:30pm NO Worship	21 10:00am WCM Chapel	22 9:30am Sewing Sisters 10:00am Zoom Bible Study 12:30pm Yoga 4:30pm Pickleball 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Adult Choir	23 9:30am Adult Bible Study	24 Pastor's Day Off 10:00am SM Supervision	25 Trustees Work Day
26 Reformation (recognized) 8:00am Worship/HC 9:00am SS/BC-9:15am 10:30am Worship/HC	27 10:00am Women's Bible Study 4:30pm Trunk or Treat- East lot 5:30pm Scouts 6:00pm Worship/HC	28 10:00am WCM Chapel	29 9:30am Sewing Sisters 10:00am Zoom 12:30pm Yoga 2:00pm Senior Moments Game Event 4:30pm Pickleball 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Adult Choir	30 9:30am Adult Bible Study	31 Pastor's Day Off Reformation	