

**PEACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

91 WERNEX LOOP
SELAH, WA 98942
509-697-4353

**Pastor
Mark Griesse**

Office Hours
9:00-12:00

Mon. & Thu. @ Peace

Tue. & Wed. @
Bethlehem

Afternoons by Appointment

**Secretary
Tammy Peterson**

9:00-1:00
Mon-Fri

Sunday Worship
9:00 a.m.

**Sunday Adult
Bible Class**
10:30 a.m.

Website
peacelutheran-
church.360unite.com

Email
peacelutheranselah@gmail.com



Messenger of Peace

Dear Members and Friends,

A blessed Mothers' Day to all mothers! Perhaps at this time of staying at home we appreciate what our mothers do for us a little more than usual. Besides giving us life and nurturing us when we were little and continuing to instruct us as we grew with sound advice and love, we have come to depend on our mothers.

My mother has been with Jesus for some time now, but I learned a lot from her. She was not a particularly cuddly mom. She was after all an executive secretary. I learned:

If you weren't 15 minutes early you were late

If you didn't tell her the whole truth it was a lie

The house has to be picked up just in case guests drop by

How to type which was immensely important for me in this
computer age

How to sit still in church

That love isn't something you say it is something you do and some-
thing you are

Well the list could go on and on, but you get the point. I suppose that you could write your own list about all the things your mother taught you over the years. The point is that a mothers' love is a reflection of God's love for each and every one of us. So take some time to tell, write, phone, email, zoom, your mother and let her know that you appreciate all she has done for you. I can't do that anymore, so my thanks goes to God for giving me the mother that he knew would be best for me.

Have a blessed Mother's Day.

~~ Pastor Griesse

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May O.W.L.S. Lunch

The next O.W.L.S. lunch (date and location to be determined).



The next **Men's Night Out** is scheduled for (to be determined).

Parking Lot Repairs...

We have been taking donations for the Parking Lot Repair Fund, and as of 4/23 we have **\$6,470** in the fund. We need approximately \$9,000.00 to repair the parking lot. If you would like to donate just mark your check "Parking Lot" and mail with your offering.

Thank You!...

We would like to thank our members for mailing in your offerings to the church during this time of staying at home. Your support is greatly appreciated. Russell Hibdon has installed a locked mailbox so that the only way to access the mail is with a key.

Church Cleaning...

Russell Hibdon has put together a list of things that need to be cleaned at the church. The list is posted on the janitor's door in the parish hall. If you need something to do with your time you can come to the church and do one of the things on the list, then check it off so others know what has been done. If more than one person or group is there be sure to maintain physical distancing.

The Life and Times of Rene & Shirley Pedraza...



It is always a joy to welcome new members into Peace Lutheran Church.

Rene Pedraza was born in Corpus Christi, TX in 1950. He has two sisters. His father's ancestors came from Spain into Mexico and eventually to Texas. He said his "claim to fame" was that he knew Farah Faucet as she went to school with him!

Following high school graduation he moved to Vantage WA, where he was employed at this Uncle's restaurant and at a Shell gas station there.

In 1975 he went to work at Hanford, first as a laborer, then as a truck driver, and eventually as supervisor for the truck drivers. Later he was with the fire department and gradually performed other duties on the Hanford Reservation.

Shirley was born in Beloit, Kansas in 1954. Her family is of German ancestry. When she was eleven months old the railroad with whom her father worked transferred her father to the Vantage area. She went to school in Kittitas and graduated in 1972. While working at the restaurant in Vantage she met Rene. Rene was still working at the restaurant when they were married in 1973.

When Rene went to work at Hanford and was still living in Vantage, he had to take a toll bridge across the Columbia River each day to get to work and back. With the cost and mileage adding up, in 1975 they decided to move to Sunnyside, WA.

Shirley & Rene are blessed with three children and two grandchildren. Their son, daughter and two grandsons currently live in Seattle, while the other daughter lives in Hawaii.

Shirley was baptized and joined the Lutheran Church in Sunnyside. Rene came from a Roman Catholic background. Due to his work schedule, he was seldom able to attend church. They eventually joined the Presbyterian Church in Sunnyside as that church met their doctrinal beliefs.

Once the children were grown Shirley went to work. After working for the Sunnyside School District for twenty-three years she retired in 2015. Shirley said she taught a Bible class for 23 years at the church. They said the Presbyterian Church was very friendly and welcoming, but Peace Lutheran far out does that.

Rene retired from Hanford in 2011. They decided to move to Selah this past summer and wanted to find a church in Selah. They were met with a great welcome and said they feel very comfortable and eventually want to be more involved.

Shirley has joined our choir. She also attends Bible Study Fellowship in Yakima. She said she is a "crafter" and is amazed at Grace Rath's quilting skills. Rene said he used to fish, but primarily does his yard work and other skills around home. Right now they want to get acquainted with the members and the activities and customs of Peace Church.

DNA IDEAS

PERSON TO PERSON OUTREACH IN OUR CHURCH BODY AS WELL AS IN THE COMMUNITY

1. Use our God-given talents to reach people 1 on 1 and share Jesus (Rick working with Wapato homeless, Lee reaching out to the H2A orchard workers).
2. Check on members absent for a week or two, making sure all is well.
3. Take meals to members when there is a need.
4. Have business cards for our members to leave when they are out in public, the church's name address, programs etc.
5. Work/train church members who might like to help; but do not know protocols.
6. Gather congregational input as to their favorite hymns/music and incorporate them in the service especially some children's favorites maybe sung before Children's Church.
7. Children's Minute with pastor, maybe before the benediction 2nd and 4th Sundays.
8. Youth acolyte 2nd and 4th Sundays.

COMMUNITY OUT REACH AS A CHURCH BODY

1. Billboard advertising in town, example – Come join our family with a picture of the church and congregation.
2. Sandwich boards placed 1 block north and 1 block south of the church on the sidewalk.
3. VBS (maybe just 3 days/nights in length).
4. Invite our veteran families, needy families etc. to our Advent and Lenten soup and sandwich meals.
5. Do a once-a-year soup and salad dinner, start with our congregation and hopefully it would spread by word of mouth in the area, with a free-will offering to go for some church project or a community need.
6. Have a Valentine dinner for our church and possibly invite another church.
7. Contact the city during the holidays and see if we can be part of the season's activities in some way.
8. Offer to wrap gifts for parents 1 or 2 evenings during the holidays to free up time for family holiday outings.
9. Watch kids 1 night during the holidays so parents can shop w/o the kids, (5-8 have snacks, do crafts, watch a movie)

APRIL 2020

ALASKA MISSION FOR CHRIST

proclaim & practice the love of Jesus

STRATEGIC PLAN

By Deac. Britt Baumgartner, Coordinator of C.E.

AMC deployed staff came together under the guidance of the Board of Directors to begin working toward the 7 Year Vision established last autumn. During this time, an overhaul of the organizational structure was proposed to better support a future increase in staffing and ministry. Even though times are uncertain, the AMC team is passionate about bringing the Good News of Jesus to the people of Alaska!



Rev. Aaron Spratt, Jan Bruick,
Deac. Britt Baumgartner, Jerry Simpson

WHAT THIS ISSUE CONTAINS:

*Strategic Plan
Volunteer Spotlight
Easter Promises
Creative in COVID-19
2020 Tax News
Giving Tuesday Goal
Partner with AMC
Staff Contact*

AMC will cultivate
3 Lutheran Mission
Centers that serve
the holistic needs
of the community
through year-round
ministry focused in
**GOD'S WORD,
SACRAMENTS,
& MERCY.**



BETHEL

FAIRBANKS

JUNEAU

Volunteer Spotlight

Our Servant Event Coordinator, Jan connecting with long-serving volunteer, Becky Schroeder @ Best Practices in Phoenix. Becky serves Pilot Station, AK. Thankful for relationships that build up Christ's Kingdom!



EASTER PROMISES

By Rev. Aaron Spratt, Missionary to SE AK

*God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.*

Psalm 46:1

During these uncertain times, we rest in the remembrance of who our God is and who He is for us. Easter proclaims these promises, that our God has rescued us from sin and death. He is a very present help for us in His Word, which tells us that nothing can separate us from God's love, not even COVID-19. As we all celebrate Easter under quarantine, may we remember that God is with us - in the isolated villages of Alaska and in the isolation of our homes. Alleluia, Jesus is risen from the dead and because He lives we have nothing to fear!

Gracious and merciful God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer, our very present help: Let the cry of those who grieve come to You, that they may find Your mercy present with them in all their afflictions. Look with compassion upon us and all of Your creation: let not our hearts despair nor our faith in You fail. Bring hope and healing that we may find relief and that our communities may be restored according to Your will, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen!



CREATIVE IN COVID-19

by Deac. Britt Baumgartner, Coordinator of C.E.

On the evening of April 6th, 2020 AMC hosted a Team Leader meeting via Zoom to discuss the upcoming Servant Event season in Alaska and the response to COVID-19 mandates. The first teams scheduled to deploy in May have been postponed, along with a few others. At this time, AMC is leaving the decision to reschedule events with the team leaders and communities served.

In moving forward, Jan Bruick (Interim Executive Director & Servant Event Coordinator) has encouraged teams to connect with their respective Alaskan communities. "I asked everyone to be thinking of ways to be creative in their approach to proclaim and practice the love of Jesus into the state. How can they continue to serve and build relationships?"

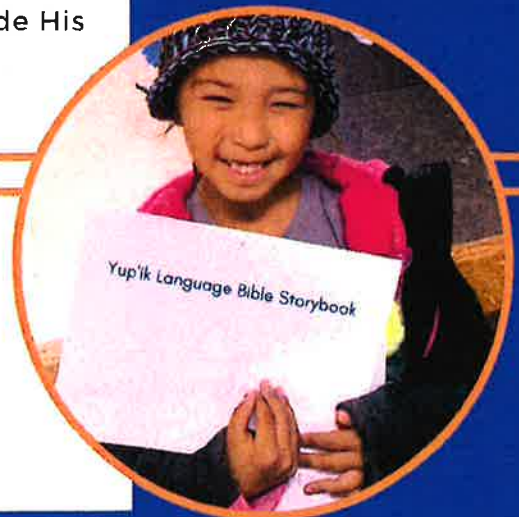
As teams ponder these questions and new needs arise each day, please pray that the Lord would continue to guide His ministry through whatever means He chooses.

TAX NEWS FOR CHARITABLE GIVERS

The new provision encourages individuals to contribute to religious, charitable and educational organizations by creating a new "above the line" deduction (i.e. for taxpayers who take the standard deduction). This deduction will permit them to deduct up to \$300 of annual monetary contributions. This is applicable for tax years beginning after 2019.

GIVING TUESDAY MINISTRY GOAL MET!

THREE BOOKS HEADING TO PUBLICATION



A huge Quayana (thank you in Yup'ik) to all those supporting the development and publication of the Alaska Native Language Bible Storybooks! Without you, these kids wouldn't have the story of Jesus in their hands. How exciting that these books are finding their way into public school libraries as well! God is doing great things here in Alaska!

THE LUTHERAN HOUR

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The world's longest-running Christian outreach radio program! On air since 1930 and broadcast in more than 80 countries.

April 2020

April 5

"There's Still Time"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
People can be unreceptive to God's love because they are very bad-or because they think they are very good. (Exodus 11-12)

April 12

"You Haven't Lost Me"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
(Exodus 14)

April 19

"The Great Pursuit"

Guest Speaker: Pastor Ryan Tinetti
(Exodus 15)

April 26

"Rescue, Test, Rest"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
(Exodus 16)

**Listen to
The Lutheran Hour**



LHM MOBILE APPS



LHM NW/AK Newsletter Editor
Julia Sinclair Zone 2 Eastside President



The LHM Mission: *Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church*

MINISTRY NEWS

The events of the past several days have provided me an opportunity to focus on the importance of today. What is here and what is now - that Christ is with us, loves us, and provides us calmness and peace in the midst of uncertainty.

My words to you today are simple and to the point. You are in my and our team's prayers now and always, that God might grant us a measure of strength and comfort in the days to come. That He would lift us up in care and love for the sake of those who might be anxious, nervous, and scared.

In the coming days and weeks, as has always been our mission, Lutheran Hour Ministries will be focused on providing messages, resources, and materials of hope and love to you that we might collectively find calm in the Word of God and share those messages and feelings with others.

Please continue to pray for our staff and leadership here in the United States and around the world - we have many loyal and faithful servants working globally through these trying times, steadfast in their call to bring the Gospel to the lost and hurting. Your support is so appreciated today and always as we continue our important work.

In HIS Mission,

Kurt Buchholz
President & CEO

LLL/LHM Districts

The Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL) is divided into regional districts and district zones, each zone having ambassadors for each of their zone churches. Districts partner with an Int'l LHM ministry center. Districts have the opportunity to choose from a variety of ministry center needs, allowing them to reach out with effective ministry to the people of that region.

Global Focus-- Online Mission Trips

Website: www.lhm.org/global

**Need a spring break getaway?
Try Gospel Adventures!**

This program gives an inside look at the Gospel outreach happening in various countries around the world and offers a glimpse into the culture of that region.

Created in partnership with Group Publishing, this will engage children with educational objectives and interactive resources geared towards expanding their perceptions of global ministry.

"Our objective for this new curriculum is to help students understand the value of differing cultures and how the Gospel is at work around the globe," says Ashley Bayless, LHM's Curriculum Development Manager.

Visit the Gospel Adventures web page at lhm.org/adventures to learn more about the program and to register for the next adventure! To learn more about Group Publishing, visit www.group.com.

[>>GOSPELADVENTURES.ORG](http://GOSPELADVENTURES.ORG)

LHM plays a vital role in helping spread the Gospel message all over the world with 34 ministry centers on six continents reaching into more than 50 countries, often bringing Christ to places where no other Christian evangelistic organizations are present. LHM's flagship ministry, The Lutheran Hour®, airs weekly on more than 1,800 radio stations and the American Forces Network.

Lutheran Hour Ministries International Ministry Centers in more than 30 countries serve the needs of hurting people. Ministry center volunteers reach out to their neighbors and communities in culturally appropriate ways with the story of Jesus—sometimes at great personal risk. Every \$10 you give enables us to reach 1,000. To donate or for more info: www.lhm.org/international

Reflections of my trip to Kenya

March 28, 2020

By Glenn Stocker

I understand there were many prayers and concerns going up for my safety in my "mission" to Kenya, Africa back in March. I felt the prayers answered as the Lord guided me very safely along the way. I am so thankful for my good friends. You are a joy in my life and much appreciated. I am also thankful for your donation of supplies to make this trip successful. They were well received.

I left Yakima on Wednesday, March 11th, going first to Seattle, then for an 8 hour layover in Paris before landing in Nairobi on March 13th. A taxi friend I had known from the past met me and took me to my friend's home. After a few hours of greetings with her and her two charming children, we went to NURU (the Lutheran Hour Ministries office) in Nairobi to drop off our first set of items, primarily used eyeglasses and hand sanitizers, then to the guest house inn to settle in and make phone calls.

On Sunday, my friend and I attended the Lutheran Church that is next to the national headquarters of our partner Lutheran Church of Kenya. We were pleased to meet Rev. Shauen Trump, the Lutheran Director of Missions coordinating for our U.S. offices and a former resident with his parents who live near Tacoma, WA. We also met John Maina, the former director of NURU who now works for the Lutheran office headquarters of Kenya. He also was the guest preacher and did an outstanding sermon on the woman at the well with Jesus. We joined our fellow members for a communion service. Afterwards I was asked to introduce myself and I then brought greetings from our fellow brother and sister members in America.

On Monday, my friend was my chauffeur and guide as we drove to Western Kenya, stopping off at Nakuru where we met Violet Gitonga, the administrator of an orphanage and school that I accompanied Dr. Ross Bethel to some years ago on a medical mission. We gave her items for the school, as the school was closed due to government orders, like in the U.S.

From there we went further west to Kisumu with stops at Point of Grace Academy, a Lutheran orphanage and school set up by Rev. Dennis Meeker and wife Lorna. Here again the facility was closed due to government orders, except for a small staff of children and adults. This 600 student academy is in the process of also building a high school. It shelters children from age 6 months through high school. School items were also left with Rev. Meeker.

From there we went to Kisumu to find housing for the night and to meet with Gabriel and Elizabeth Mala, a pastor friend of a fellow Gideon brother from Zillah that sent items and study bibles for Rev. Mala. The next day we met with Rev. Dr. David Chuchu, the Lutheran Bishop at his new hotel and conference center for lunch and also gave him items for his outreach humanitarian programs.

Continued next page...

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On the road on Wednesday we headed south and met with Rev. Mishak Ngare our Lutheran pastor acquaintance who showed us his recently built church in a rural area. He still has a need for pews, etc. He said people do not come much if they need to stand for services. His membership is about 100. Afterwards his family hosted us for a lunch and extended visit. By evening time we continued on to my friend's home in western Kenya for the night.

The next day we got up early and two hours later got on a ferry boarded on Lake Victoria to visit a "Sister" friend and family. To my surprise they were Roman Catholic with the Sister being a R. C. Nun. It was an all day visit with travel and we arrived back home at 10 p.m. The next day we visited areas from the past like Migori, Kenya and visited villages and areas of development that was a major change from past visits I had made with medical teams.


Finally back to Nairobi on Sunday. In the meantime we got word of major shut downs of the airports and were attempting to get earlier flights back to the U.S. It was impossible to get through to the airlines but my daughters, Susan and Shereen, were able to get me a flight on Tuesday on Ethiopian Airlines that took me to Addis Ababa and then to Dublin. Following that it was on to Chicago before getting to Seattle and Yakima by midnight Wednesday, which enabled me to bypass any stops in Europe. I was several days earlier than was originally planned, but I was home looking forward to my wife's cooking. But now I am in "quarantine" at home for two weeks and following government orders.

Overall I think I was able to deliver over 250 pairs of eyeglasses, nearly a 100 t-shirts, a dozen soccer balls, hundreds of pens and pencils, the 4 study bibles, 4 large packages of hand sanitizers, and some other smaller items to the orphanages and schools. I felt God's guiding hand and comfort wherever I went. They were a very friendly people and many invited me to come back again.

I felt it was a blessing to be with my fellow Christian family in Kenya, to worship with them, and I could feel the Lord guiding and being with me the entire time. I had no fears or concerns as we know the Lord is with us wherever we are. To God be the glory as we serve Him in our love for our fellows in Christ.

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MAY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div> Rev. Mark Griesse: Cell: (509) 594-6866 Office Number: 697-4353 E-mail: peacelutheranselah@gmail.com Website: peacelutheranchurch.360unite.com </div> <div> ALTAR GUILD Sara Bicsak </div>					1 Pastor's Day Off (Church Cleaning) 1:00-2:30 Women's Bible Study	2 4:30 Choir Practice 8:00-AA Mtg. Ed Unit
3 (C) Elder: Steve Sinclair 9:00 a.m. Worship w/ Children's Church 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 1:00 Navarro Group	4 Pastor @ Peace	5 Pastor @ BLC (11:00 BLC Elders Mtg.)	6 Pastor @ BLC 7 a.m. Men's Breakfast @ Denny's (11:00 Bible Study @ BLC) 6:30 Bible Study @ Peace	7 Pastor @ Peace 9-1 Quilting 10:00 Stewardship Mtg. 7:00 Lay Ministers' Mtg. Navarro Group 7:00 p.m.	8 Pastor's Day Off (Church Cleaning) O.W.L.S. – 11:30 @ _____ NO Women's Bible Class	9 4:30 Choir Practice 8:00-AA Mtg. Ed Unit
10 <u>MOTHER'S DAY</u> 9:00 a.m. Worship w/ Children's Church 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 1:00 Navarro Group	11 Pastor @ Peace 6:30 Stephen Ministers Mtg.	12 Pastor @ BLC Noon-Ladies Lunch Bunch 7:00 - Council Mtg.	13 Pastor @ BLC 7 a.m. Men's Breakfast @ Denny's (11:00 Bible Study @ BLC) 6:30 Bible Study @ Peace	14 Pastor @ Peace 9-1 Quilting Navarro Group 7:00 p.m.	15 Pastor's Day Off (Church Cleaning) 1:00-2:30 Women's Bible Study	16 4:30 Choir Practice 8:00-AA Mtg. Ed Unit
17 (C) Elder: Steve Sinclair 9:00 a.m. Worship w/ Children's Church 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 1:00 Navarro Group	18 Pastor @ Peace 6:30 Men's Night Out @ Tailgaters	19 Pastor @ BLC	20 Pastor @ BLC 7 a.m. Men's Breakfast @ Denny's	21 Pastor @ Peace 9-1 Quilting Navarro Group 7:00 p.m.	22 Pastor's Day Off (Church Cleaning) 1:00-2:30 Women's Bible Study	23 10:00-4:00 Knotty Girls Quilting Grp. (Fellowship Hall) 4:30 Choir Practice 8:00-AA Mtg. Ed Unit
24 9:00 a.m. Worship w/ Children's Church 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 1:00 Navarro Group	25 <u>OFFICE CLOSED</u> 	26 Pastor @ BLC	27 Pastor @ BLC 7 a.m. Men's Breakfast @ Denny's	28 Pastor @ Peace 9-1 Quilting Navarro Group 7:00 p.m.	29 Pastor's Day Off (Church Cleaning) 1:00-2:30 Women's Bible Study	30 4:30 Choir Practice 8:00-AA Mtg. Ed Unit
31 (C) Elder: Steve Sinclair 9:00 a.m. Worship w/ Children's Church 10:30 a.m. Bible Study						

Serving Peace in May 2020

May 3

9:00 a.m.

Elder:	Steve Sinclair
Ushers/Acolyte:	Randy Bicsak & Larry Smith
Reader:	Mike Phelps
Counter:	Sara Bicsak

May 10

9:00 a.m.

Ushers/Acolyte:	
Reader:	Teri Sanchez
Counter:	Carmen Lowrie

May 17

9:00 a.m.

Elder:	Steve Sinclair
Ushers/Acolyte:	Russell & Hilde Hibdon
Reader:	Hilde Hibdon
Counter:	Carol Heidt

May 24

9:00 a.m.

Ushers/Acolyte:	Steve & Marcia Shotwell
Reader:	Marcia Shotwell
Counter:	Jody Hert

May 31

9:00 a.m.

Elder:	Steve Sinclair
Ushers/Acolyte:	Dick & Judy Jacobson
Reader:	Shirley Pedraza
Counter:	Jody Hert

*If you cannot serve on your scheduled Sunday, please trade with someone else or call the church office, 697-4353, **before Friday** (if no one answers please leave a message).*

Thank you.