



The Compass of Peace

Peace Lutheran Church, October 2020

GOD IS GOOD: ALL THE TIME!

So here it is November, hard to believe since the Masters golf Tournament (usually in May) will be played this month. Covid-19 has made for a crazy and twisted year. Nevertheless God is Good: All the time. And All the Time: God is Good!

As we move into our newly ReNewed worship space, I want to remind you that we will be following all the Covid-19 safety procedures that we had in place while worshipping in the Fellowship Hall and at the picnic center. We will have a number of hand sanitizer stations throughout the narthex, but please be aware that the alcohol in the hand-sanitizer can damage the fabric of our new pew-chairs.

As announced last week in a pastoral email to all, we will be fogging the space between the 8:15 and 10:15 worship times. We will be using an item called Purerox, it kills viruses and pathogens within 60 seconds.

Also we received some good news about the air flow in our worship space. Air circulation rates are an important part of the process in figuring how many people can safely occupy a space and for how long. The sanctuary air exchange rate is 9.14 minutes. So, in the sanctuary the air is replaced every 9.14 minutes. We will have an occupancy limit of 104 plus staff in the sanctuary.

This means we will be requiring that everyone register on Flocknote for all worship and all-congregation activities. This is because we only have so much space allotted by the Health Department's recommendations in this time of Covid-19 alerts. This also means we will have people register for Christmas Eve services. Refer to the article in this newsletter on Christmas Eve for further information.

Nevertheless, I am excited to begin to worship in our new worship space. It will be a slightly different experience because it is far more intimate while have the same seating capacity (when outside of Covid-19 times). We will be able to have both organ and piano available for any worship service (without the need for the Pastor to fill time while Linda moves down or up from the balcony). Holy Communion will be celebrated in the midst of the people, as Luther recommends. We will also be able to livestream services (after tackling the learning curve). The functionality of worship and sense of community will be greatly enhanced by this renewed worship space. These are exciting times and I can't wait for everyone to experience them!

God is Good! All the Time!

Pastor Steve

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

Be watching this week for a mailing from our stewardship team. Your mailing should include a letter, a commitment card and a brochure. The brochure outlines mission opportunities and new money needed to help Peace Lutheran continue to Share Christ, Serve Community, and Grow Disciples. Also included in the brochure is a chart showing where you are in relationship to other givers and how we would like our congregation as a community to grow together. You will also receive in your mailing a commitment card. We encourage you to prayerfully consider your commitment to our mission and ministries for 2021.

Commitment weekend is Saturday, November 7, and Sunday, November 8, 2020. Those worshipping in person are encouraged to make your intended 2021 offering known by placing your commitment card in the designated basket as an act of worship. Those not worshipping in person, please return your pre-addressed commitment card by mail, be sure to seal the bottom edge before mailing, or drop them off inside the church office during business hours. We have also been posting temple talks on our YouTube channel (PeaceBeavercreek) to help you better understand what our new money will be used for as we work to be an inviting, vibrant, growing congregation rooted in scripture.

CHANGE IS HARD

Change is hard. If we had known on Sunday, March 15 that it would be the last time we would worship in the sanctuary as we had known it, would we all have gotten up and come to worship to bid farewell to the space? Would we have filled every seat in the sanctuary that weekend to say goodbye? Would we have taken a moment as we sat in worship that weekend to contemplate and reminisce about the baptisms, first communions, confirmations, weddings, children's choir cantatas, concerts, Easter services, Christmas Eve services and other worship celebrations that are in our memories? Would we have thought about the funerals, the times we had come to pray when we were diagnosed with cancer or Parkinson's or heart disease, the times we had come to pray because our marriage was ending, our job had ended, or when life was just so overwhelming that the sanctuary felt like the only safe place to come to pray? Yet here we are in November, having not had the opportunity to bid farewell to that space. I have spent most of the last 43 years of my worship life here in this sanctuary that now is about to look very, very different. I am both very excited to see what the future sanctuary will bring and yet a little apprehensive that the space that I was raised in will look so different. Will anything look familiar? What will be different? What will be the same? What will I recognize? Will it feel as comfortable and welcoming as it did before we renovated?

We hear in Hebrews that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8) As I process through my feelings of change, and how the space will look and feel different from what it has been for the last 43 years for me, I need to remind myself that I too have changed in those same 43 years. Jesus, however, has not. He is the same now as He was when I transferred here as a 7 year old child. Jesus is the same as He was when I received my first communion here and when I was confirmed here. He is the same as He was when Joe and I were married here. He is the same as He will be when our children are confirmed here next year. No matter what pews, chairs, piano, organ, altar, lectern, or flooring are in the sanctuary, Jesus will be the same as He always has been and as He always will be. As we all move forward into the newly renovated sanctuary and see how the new flooring, new seating, new lighting, new sound equipment, and new design enhance our existing stained glass windows, may we all be reminded that Jesus is the constant in all of this. He is the same today as He was on March 15, 2020 and He will be the same tomorrow as well.

Linda Hill Lally, Director of Music

PRAYING THE SCRIPTURES

In the next few weeks, you will be receiving information about a new opportunity to read scripture together. As we begin to enter the holiday season in a different way this year, we are encouraging everyone to read the Bible for the last 6 weeks of the year. Even though we may not see each other in worship weekly, we still can be together in community by reading Scripture, by pondering what we have read, by praying or meditating, and then by contemplating or resting in that moment. It is our hope that this time of Scripture reading and prayer will help you hear God speaking to you in a new and different way. As the Psalmist wrote in Psalm 46: "Be still, and know that I am God." May you use the last 6 weeks of the year to take time daily to be still. (If you miss a day, it's okay. Just jump in whenever you are able.) Look for more information in your email in the next few weeks.

"THINKING OF YOU" CARD MAKING ONLINE

On Saturday, November 21, the youth will have a "Thinking of You" Card Making Service Event. This event will be conducted online over GoToMeeting from 10-11 a.m. These cards will eventually go to actual shut-ins and people in quarantine from Peace Lutheran. Ahead of time, families will get a basic kit with materials for making the cards. The kit will include cardstock, some cut-out words, and other decorations. Families will need to provide their own glue, scissors, and other crafting supplies. We will also provide families with sample notes to write inside of the cards and a few people (with addresses) to send their completed cards to.

On November 21, youth will have a chance to show off the cards they have made or are making. We'll also demonstrate a few ways to make the cards. More importantly, we'll talk about ensuring that our community includes not only those people we see every week but also others who aren't able to be with us in person regularly, whether or not there's a pandemic going on. Families should look out for details in their email.

FAITH FORMATION CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

This fall, per our Board of Christian Education plan, we have been meeting virtually with adults, youth, confirmation, elementary and Preschool 1 children. We have learned a lot about who God is, who we are, and how we are in relationship together. We have spoken our faith out loud, connected our favorite movie heroes with God's word and faith heroes, learned about the Gospels and the 10 commandments, dived deep into the Lectionary Gospels and had great time sharing our lives with one another. It has been a great fall!

As we move into the holiday season, our virtual programs will be winding down for the year but don't worry, we will have some at home activities for your faith formation. In November we will be encouraging you to grow together in faith with a family Thanksgiving devotional and a gratitude journal. In December, we will be offering 5 Advent Godly Play lessons online with a take home DIY Godly Play box to allow you the opportunity to explore and wonder your way through Advent at home, as well as, an Advent Devotional for personal or family faith formation – see the corresponding compass articles for more information.

Because we would like to keep everyone safe as Ohio COVID-19 numbers rise, we will not be having an elementary school Christmas program this year. The Christian Education Board will be meeting in November to discuss our plan for 2021. Be on the look out for more information about what faith formation will look like in the Winter of 2021. The Christian Education Board will be meeting in November to discuss our plan for 2021. Also watch for more information about what faith formation will look like in the Winter of 2021.

TAKE HOME THANKSGIVING DEVOTIONAL

So, when was the last time you just stopped and contemplated all that you can be grateful for?

In a recent article in the Gather Magazine (WELCA publication) entitled "The shape of what's to come" Sarah Carson writes, "Look at that beautiful patch of red leaves. We've had the gift of summer, and now we'll get to see the fall." She then goes on to say that "When we look upon the present with gratitude, we enter the future with hope and generosity."

As the season changes around us, and with thanksgiving just around the corner, one question that came to me was... Are you looking upon the present with gratitude? I know that it has been a hard, chaotic, stressful, anxiety ridden year. Together we have been navigating an international pandemic with home schooling, mask wearing, and social distancing. If that were not enough, we have also been living in a unique political landscape as we head into the election in a few days, and we continue to hear and see injustice in the world and in our own backyards, as race and violent protests become a part of our national conversation. In the midst of this chaos, it has been hard to be focused on gratitude, as in years past, as we do our best to make it through the day with the loneliness, anxiety and stress of the year.

And yet, what we know is that when we focus on the things we are thankful for, we are better able to look to the future with both hope and generosity.

Because gratitude can change our perspective, I would encourage you to take some time this November, as head toward Thanksgiving, to be intentional about finding things for which you are grateful, things for which you are thankful. To help you focus on gratitude, we are including with this compass a gratitude journal with a daily prompt of "I am thankful for ...". There is a prompt and small writing or drawing space for every day of November. We are also including a family friendly devotional to keep your gratitude rooted in God's word.

We encourage you to take on this daily practice of gratitude because being grateful takes some intentional practice. Taking time to be mindful of all that we can be grateful for, even during times of hardships and difficulties, can provide great benefits as we look to the future with hope and generosity.

THANKSGIVING FAMILY DEVOTIONS

(Feel free to read one or all of the readings and conclude with the prayer on the next page.)

Read:

Psalm 107:1

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."

This Bible verse reminds us to give thanks to God because God's love is with us forever! God's love for us never ends, and our thankfulness to God should never end. In the United States, we have a day set aside to be thankful for our many blessings, and it is a very special day full of family and food, two of our wonderful blessings! As Christians, we know the true source of ALL of our blessings—God!

Talk:

1. What is your favorite Thanksgiving Day blessing?
2. What else are you thankful for?
3. How does it make you feel to know that God's love never ends?

Read:

James 1:17

"Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."

This verse in James reminds us that every good thing is from God. The verse also tells us that God never changes—God is the same, and God gifts are the same, no matter what is going on. What an important reminder about God's nature and how perfectly God loves us!

When President Abraham Lincoln declared the first Thanksgiving holiday in the United States, he wanted all Americans to remember the source of their blessings and gifts. Even in the middle of a horrible war (the Civil War), Lincoln knew that the people had a lot to be thankful for. God was still present and working—and blessing His people—during the war. In his proclamation making Thanksgiving a holiday in 1863, he said that the year was full of "the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies," and that "They are gracious gifts of the Most High God."

Talk:

1. What good gifts can you thank God for today?
2. What do you think it means that God never changes?
3. Why do you think it's important to thank God, even in hard times?

Read:

Psalm 95:1-6

"Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!"

What a beautiful verse from the Psalms! We have so many reasons to come to God with thanksgiving and praise. Psalm 95 lists some of them—let's see how many we can find: (God is our salvation; God is a great God; God is the King above all kings; The earth belongs to God; The mountains belong to God; God made the sea; God made the land).

As we prepare for Thanksgiving, let's make sure we remember the One to whom we owe thanks for every good thing! Isn't it amazing to know that we belong to God, but also that the whole world belongs to God? God loves the world and everything God created, and God calls us to love those things too.

THANKSGIVING FAMILY DEVOTIONS

Talk:

1. What do you think it means to "make a joyful noise"?
2. What is your favorite part of God's creation?
3. What is one way you can show your thanks to God?

Read:

Psalm 105:1-6

"Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!

Sing to him, sing praises to him;

tell of all his wondrous works!

Glory in his holy name;

let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

Seek the Lord and his strength;

seek his presence continually!

Remember the wondrous works that he has done,

his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

O offspring of Abraham, his servant,

children of Jacob, his chosen ones!"

Psalm 105 gives us wonderful instructions for how to show thanks to the Lord—by telling other people about God's works, singing praises to God's name, seeking God's presence every day, and remembering the many good things God has done! When we think about spreading the Good News of God and what God has done for us, it is important to reflect on the story of the Bible and the many promises God made to God's people from the beginning of time—and the marvelous ways God kept those promises by sending Jesus.

Talk:

1. What are some ways we can give thanks to God this Thanksgiving by telling other people about Him?
2. What is your favorite song that sings praises to God?
3. What is one way you can "seek" God's presence (which means to look for ways to spend time with God)?

Read:

Ephesians 5:19-20

"...addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"

Ephesians 5 provides a beautiful picture for how we should celebrate Thanksgiving! As we give thanks with our family and friends, let's also remember to give thanks to God. This verse also says to sing songs to God in our hearts all of the time. What do you think that means? It means that even when we can't actually sing, our hearts should always be praising God. God is in everything, all the time—and we can give thanks to God always and for everything!

Talk:

1. What do you think it means to praise God in your heart (without singing out loud)?
2. If you had to choose just one or two words to shout out to God in thanksgiving, what would it be?
3. Can you think of one more thing to be thankful for as we get closer to Thanksgiving Day?

Pray:

Do you know what a "doxology" is? It is a short song of praise to God. Let's say or sing the doxology together to close our Thanksgiving Devotional —

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
Amen*

TAKE HOME ADVENT

Advent is a time when children can truly experience the mystery of Christmas through Godly Play. The spirit of Advent encourages us to slow down, take time, and experience the mystery of God with us.

This Advent (November 29 – December 24) I encourage you to take time to wonder about the mystery of Christmas with our take home advent box using Godly play material.

Each week Pastor Carey will post a YouTube video (PeaceBeavercreek channel) of the lesson that you can watch, follow along, and then explore yourselves at home with similar DIY materials. Each week we will explore and wonder together about a new part of the Christmas Story

Week 1: The Prophets

Week 2: The Holy Family

Week 3: The Shepherds

Week 4: The Magi

Week 4 continued: The birth of Jesus

Please call the office to let us know if you would like an Advent take home box. You may pick your box starting the weekend of November 21/22 at worship or stopping by the office between November 23 - 25, 2020. Most of what you need can be found in the take home box. You will receive:

- ◆ A Bethlehem page which can be cut out and folded to make a triangle which will allow your Bethlehem scene to stand up
- ◆ DIY Advent cards (coloring pages) with 5 Advent/Christmas designs one for each lesson
- ◆ DIY crèche, with Holy Family figures, shepherds, magi, animals, and accessories
- ◆ A box to store the Advent lesson with a star
- ◆ All advent lessons (4 scripts for the 5 lessons)
- ◆ A wondering cube
- ◆ Advent coloring pages

Other items needed but not included:

- ◆ 5 candles, (votive candle, large or small candles are fine), matches
- ◆ Purple or blue and white underlay (cloth or felt pieces),
(please let Pastor Carey know if you do not have any underlay material you can use),
- ◆ Candle snuffer (first 5 families to request an Advent box will receive a free snuffer),

Join us as we wonder our way through the Advent Season

CHRISTMAS COOKIE BAKING ONLINE

Have you ever wanted to learn how to make the perfect Christmas cookie to share with loved ones? Now you can! It's a great way to celebrate the gift of God's love at Christmas. On Sunday, December 6, the youth will have an online Christmas Cookie Baking Tutorial. This tutorial will be live over GoToMeeting from 3-4 p.m. Our Peace Lutheran Church celebrity bakers will walk through the steps of baking Christmas cookies while youth are encouraged to follow along at home. No prior baking experience is required. Families will need to have their own baking supplies and oven. Families will receive a recipe ahead of time via email along with instructions for the GoToMeeting. If time allows, we'll even help you learn how to decorate the perfect cookie!



END OF YEAR GIVING

2020 will be over before we know it. I want to let everyone know about our end of year planning for giving.

In order for any gifts to be counted towards the 2020 year, we must have them by December 31. Please make sure your giving envelope has the date on it. All envelopes are placed in the safe which is not opened until the counters come in. That will be January 3 or 4, 2021. If there is no date on the envelope, it will be posted to 2021.

If you use our electronic giving, please be aware that although the web site may show a 2020 date, the funds will not hit the bank for up to three days later. We get reports from the giving web site that includes the date the transaction is posted to the bank. It is that date we use for posting to our records.

If you have a Required Minimum Distribution from retirement plan (traditional, SEP, or SIMPLE IRAs, 401(k), 403(b), or 457(b) plans, profit sharing plans, or other defined contribution plans), please prayerfully consider including Peace as part of the distribution. Check with your tax advisor on the best way for you to include Peace.

Lastly, if you wish to donate any securities to Peace, let us know. Again, you may want to check with your tax advisor on the best way for you to do so.

Thank you for supporting our Mission of Peace.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

As we plan for Christmas Eve, this year will look different. Due to Covid-19 protocols, each worship service will be limited to 100 people in the sanctuary and everyone will be required to register for worship. Our schedule will be different this year so that we can accommodate everyone who would like to attend worship for Christmas Eve. We are adjusting some worship times so that people can also attend during daylight hours, if that is something that is helpful for them. Registration for Christmas Eve worship will begin the first full week of December on Flocknote. If we find that all of the services fill up, we will add additional services on December 23rd. Each service will last less than an hour and have Silent Night sung. Due to restrictions, there will be no communion this year. If you have questions, please contact the pastors. More details will follow in the December Compass.

Wednesday, December 23	4:00 P.M.	Family Worship with glow sticks
Thursday, December 24	12:00 NOON	Traditional Worship with candles
Thursday, December 24	4:00 P.M.	Family Worship with glow sticks
Thursday, December 24	6:00 P.M.	Traditional Worship with candles
Thursday, December 24	8:00 P.M.	Traditional Worship with candles



FINANCIAL STANDINGS

SEPTEMBER 2019

GOAL	\$72,055.00
INCOME	\$59,766.16
EXPENSES	\$70,187.99

SEPTEMBER 2020

BUDGET	\$73,100.76
INCOME	\$49,557.98
EXPENSES	\$60,609.93



Peace Lutheran Church

3530 Dayton-Xenia Road

Beavercreek, Ohio 45432

www.peacebeavercreek.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

WORSHIP

SCHEDULE

In Fellowship Hall

Saturday at 5:15 p.m.

Sunday at 8:15 a.m.

Sunday at 10:15 a.m.

YOU TUBE CHANNEL

**PEACE LUTHERAN
BEAVERCREEK**

[https://
www.youtube.com/
results?
search_query=peace+lut
heran+beavercreek](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=peace+lutheran+beavercreek)

Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

Church Office:

937-426-1441

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Our Ministers:

Every Member

Senior Pastor:

Stephen Kimm

Associate Pastor:

Carey Hovland

Youth Ministry Leader

Deacon Dan Jacob

Parish Administrator

Kevin Pyle

Director of Music

Linda Hill Lally

Administrative Assistant:

Mary Haller

Custodian:

Brad Saunders

Nursery:

Melissa Ellis and Lindsay Hoskins

Wedding Coordinator:

Robin Jones