



# The Voice of Peace

## PEACE MISSION STATEMENT . . .

To witness and live as followers of Christ; serving one another in Christian love, so that God's Holy Spirit may save the lost and strengthen the saved.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE/INVITATION:

▪ **Pastor's Thursday, 2:00 p.m. Bible Study on the Book of John will resume on Thursday, May 7, at 2:00 p.m. You may join in by signing up for Zoom at [zoom.us](https://zoom.us) or download the Zoom app on your cell phone.**

▪ **Get connected on Facebook and join us live for our Saturday Hymn Sing at 6:30 p.m. and Divine Worship on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. by going to [peacewaterford.org](https://peacewaterford.org) and clicking on the "f" Facebook icon.**

**Contact Pastor Tkac at 248-821-2727 or Debbie at the office (248-681-9360) if you need help getting connected.**

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you PEACE." Numbers 6:24-26

## MAY 2020



Dear friends in Christ,

It is my hope and prayer that you are healthy and doing well as we together stay home while this pandemic continues to keep us from gathering in person for worship. I want to also thank you for your gifts and offerings, which you have generously given to meet the needs of Peace during this trying time. While I don't yet know the timeline and details that will allow us to gather in some form for worship, I want to write a few thoughts as to how the church might look and be different going forward for a while. Before we had to close our doors, President Bill Krueger and I took a look at how we might make worship safer for our members, and we have continued to talk about how we might do this when we can once again come together for worship. Here are some reasonable measures we will be implementing.



If you or a member of your family is sick with the virus, please stay home.

We will not gather in the Narthex before or after worship to visit. Please find a seat in the sanctuary as soon as you arrive. We will place bulletins at seating locations for your convenience. We may limit seating locations and use the Narthex for seating to keep safe distances between us.

Sit with those you live with only, and keep the recommended six-foot distance between you and other worshippers. Wave hello, but do not hug or shake hands.

There will be no public greeting time following the call to worship. After the announcements, we will begin our service with the opening hymn. The number of hymn verses may be limited to shorten service times.

The offering plate will be at the entrance of the Nave by the Baptismal font. Offerings may be placed before or after worship, eliminating the need for passing the offering plate.

We will distribute Holy Communion in a continuous line, row-by-row, and side-by-side to keep safe distancing going forward. We will not initially offer the common cup.

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Our Gifts, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Bible Quiz Pg. 2

Monthly Calendar Pg. 3

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⇒ Sing Praises to the Lord

⇒ CPH Blog ~

*Cling to Hymns in a Pandemic  
Marie Greenway, April 28, 2020*



**The Voice of Peace** is the monthly Newsletter of:

**Peace Lutheran Church**

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**In the Office**

Pastor Tkac: Monday—Thursday

Debbie Wittke: Monday—Thursday

Hours: 9 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

**Worship and Class Schedule:**

**Saturday Divine Worship** ..... 6:30 p.m.

**Sunday Divine Worship** ..... 10:30 a.m.

**Note: Unless otherwise noted, no classes Memorial Day — Labor Day**

**Intergenerational Sunday School**

in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m.

**Midweek Adult Bible Class**

Thursday ..... 2:00—3:00 p.m.

**Confirmed—High School Class  
"Life With God"**

Monday ..... 6:30—7:30 p.m.



**MAY 2020 ACOLYTE AND READER SCHEDULE**

**SATURDAY**

**6:30 P.M.**

**SUNDAY**

**10:30 A.M.**

**ALL SERVICES ARE SUSPENDED AT THE CHURCH BUILDING UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. ONLINE SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE ON FACEBOOK. GO TO [WWW.PEACEWATERFORD.ORG](http://WWW.PEACEWATERFORD.ORG) AND CLICK ON THE "f" ICON IN THE UPPER LEFT HAND CORNER TO CONNECT.**

**MAY**

**ELDERS: SATURDAY** Rick Heinz / **SUNDAY** Jay Squanda (as needed)

**MAY ALTAR:** Pastor Tkac (as needed)



**Celebrating a BIRTHDAY**

- |    |                                 |  |
|----|---------------------------------|--|
| 02 | Doris Mausling                  |  |
| 05 | Scotty Dobson, Tracy Lippincott |  |
| 08 | Kendra Klein                    |  |
| 12 | Emma Carlson                    |  |
| 15 | Alex Powell                     |  |
| 16 | Monica Tkac                     |  |
| 18 | Janette Wendland                |  |
| 19 | Susan Switzer                   |  |
| 20 | Robert Poe IV                   |  |
| 23 | Theresa Gray                    |  |
| 28 | Ron Gray                        |  |



**Celebrating an ANNIVERSARY**

- |    |                          |      |
|----|--------------------------|------|
|    |                          | Yrs. |
| 20 | Matthew & Elise tilley   | 31   |
| 28 | Richard & Gloria Rappuhn | 32   |



Memorials

**BIBLE QUIZ**

While 70 Israelite men were commissioned as prophets at the tent of meeting, two others, Eldad and Medad, were reported to have prophesied in the camp — not following "proper" protocols. Who defended them?

- A. Moses  
B. Joshua  
C. Jethro



Answer: A (See Numbers 11:24-29.)

All Worship services are on Facebook Live. Go to [www.peacewaterford.ord](http://www.peacewaterford.ord) and click on the "F" Facebook icon. In the upper left hand corner to connect.

# May

CONNECT ON FACEBOOK LIVE FOR WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 6:30 pm Hymn Sing Facebook Live
3 Fourth Sunday of Easter  10:30 a.m. Worship Facebook Live	4	5	6	7  2:00 p.m. — John Bible Study resumes at zoom.us	8	9  6:30 pm Hymn Sing Facebook Live
10 Fifth Sunday of Easter  10:30 a.m. Worship Facebook Live  <b>MOTHER'S DAY</b>	11	12  7:00 pm Zoom Elder's Meeting	13	14  2:00 pm Zoom Bible Study  7:00 pm Zoom Council Meeting	15	16  6:30 pm Hymn Sing Facebook Live
17 Sixth Sunday of Easter  10:30 a.m. Worship Facebook Live  	18	19	20	21 The Ascension of our Lord  2:00 pm Zoom Bible Study	22	23  6:30 pm Hymn Sing Facebook Live  <b>MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND</b>
24 Seventh Sunday of Easter  10:30 a.m. Worship Facebook Live  <b>MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND</b>	25  <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>	26	27	28  2:00 pm Zoom Bible Study	29	30  6:30 pm Hymn Sing Facebook Live
31 The Day of Pentecost  10:30 a.m. Worship Facebook Live						
<b>WE WILL NOTIFY YOU WHEN THE CHURCH REOPENS FOR ONSIGHT WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES!</b>						

Online worship through Facebook Live will continue on Sunday mornings for those who are sick or feel uncomfortable gathering together due to the pandemic and for our friends that have joined us in worship through this means. I pray it has been a blessing to you during this lockdown.

Bible Study and Sunday school will start-up in the fall.

We may need to suspend all summer activities until further notice.

The daily devotions and online worship keep us connected, and I look forward to beginning an online Bible Study Group going forward. Some have joined the **Word-Wide Bible Study** offered on Tuesday mornings at 11:00 a.m. by LCMS Pastor Bryan Wolfmuller in Austin, Texas, via the Zoom app. Please consider joining us if you are able.

Above are some necessary steps Bill and I have talked through as we slowly look to gather again. It is my hope as we move forward, that, a more familiar Peace Lutheran Church will emerge over time. Please bear in mind that while worship may look different for a time, it is for the wellbeing of us all so we can once again gather and worship together.

With the Lord's help, we will get through this.

The Lord Is with you,  
Pastor Tkac



## Cling to Hymns in a Pandemic Marie Greenway, April 28, 2020

Several of Bach's chorales are included in our hymnal today, such as "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy" (LSB 434), "O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken" (LSB 439), "Upon the Cross Extended" (LSB 453), and "[O Sacred Head, Now Wounded](#)" (LSB 450). Like us, the people in Bach's congregation in Leipzig, Germany, would have recognized these tunes and words. They would have considered these chorales to be their songs.

Imagine that you are listening to a performance of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* but you (like me) do not understand German. The performance starts and you are immediately lost; however, you soon hear a familiar melody drifting through the milieu of voices in the opening chorus. You recognize this melody as "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy." Soon, you start to recognize other hymns that you commonly sing during Lent. While you may not understand the language, you understand the point of each hymn. You can understand how each hymn responds to a certain part in the Passion story. This is what Bach intended. He wanted his hearers—even those who did not understand German—to recognize these hymns. He knew they would have a deep knowledge of these hymns.

Of course, we are now past Holy Week and firmly in the Easter season. Our hymns, though, are still responses to the biblical text. Our alleluias fill the air as our communal response to Christ's resurrection. We Christians sing these hymns in one voice, united in our response to Christ's saving work.

### Music Builds Community

We need this communal response especially now when we are forced out of our physical gathering spaces by disease and death. We are beings who need to gather *physically*. We are a combination of body and soul, meant to live in physical community. When that is taken from us, we struggle. Of course, technology is a gift in a time like this, allowing us to gather virtually, if not physically.

Our hymns carry us through this time because we are still able to sing them in community, even if not while physically in the same space. My church has been livestreaming services with a miniature choir to sing the hymns and to speak and sing the congregational responses. Even as the small group of us gather in the building, we know that many others are gathering online and are singing the same things we are. In this time of uncertainty, we still sing our old, familiar hymns that remind us of our salvation and Jesus' victory over sickness, disease, and death.

### Hymns Share God's Saving Work

Our hymns are a treasure because they are *ours*. We sing them week after week, year after year. We recognize them as our own. Like Bach's Leipzig congregation at St. Thomas Church, we hear them and sing them as our communal responses to Christ's saving work. Why are old liturgies, old hymns, old prayers, and memorized passages still important? Because there are times when life is no longer normal and we need these things to cling to. We cling to these remembered, familiar things because they guide us to the ultimate steadfast and unchanging truth: Christ Himself.

We were taught these things, and we teach them to the next generation because they are true, beautiful, and good. We continue to sing hymns because they are ours and because they belong to this community of believers, a community that can gather despite the rages and ravages of the world. Our hymns unite us and point us to the One who lives. Because He lives, we respond evermore with alleluias! No longer are we downcast, no longer do we fear death. Instead, we sing joyously together. We sing *our songs*, our hymns of life.

For Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!