



# THE PEACE LUTHERAN

VOLUME 49, ISSUE No. 5

JUNE AND JULY 2024

## JUNE SCRIPTURE READINGS

June 2: **Second Sunday after Pentecost**

Deuteronomy 5:12-15; 2 Corinthians 4:5-12;  
Mark 2:23-3:6

June 9: **Third Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 3:8-15; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35

June 16: **Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

Ezekiel 17:22-24; 2 Corinthians 5:1-17; Mark 4:26-34

June 23: **Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

Job 38:1-11; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

June 30: **Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

Lamentations 3:22-33; 2 Corinthians 8:1-9,13-15;  
Mark 5:21-43

## JULY SCRIPTURE READINGS

July 7: **Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

Ezekiel 2:1-5; 2 Corinthians 12:1-10; Mark 6:1-13

July 14: **Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

Amos 7:7-15; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

July 21: **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

Jeremiah 23:1-6; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-44

July 28: **Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 9:8-17; Ephesians 3:14-21; Mark 6:45-56

## ST. TRINITY CEMETERY & BOY SCOUT TROOP 584

### TO HONOR OUR VETERANS



**ALL ARE INVITED** to join Boy Scout Troop 584 and the St. Trinity Cemetery Board of Directors on Thursday, May 23, at 6:00PM for a Memorial Day Ceremony at St. Trinity Cemetery to honor all Veterans.

After the ceremony, our Scouts will place flags at the graves of the many Veterans buried at St. Trinity Cemetery.

Refreshments will be served and we ask attendees to please bring a lawn chair.



## **BSA TROOP 584**

### ANNUAL AMERICAN FLAG RETIREMENT



In commemoration of Flag Day, Boy Scout Troop 584 will have their annual Flag Retirement Ceremony Thursday, June 13, at 7:00PM, in the parking lot behind

the kitchen. If you have any American flags that are torn, faded or tattered (unserviceable), please bring to church beginning Memorial Day weekend of May 25/26, and place in the designated box on the Commons counter. Any questions? Please contact Ralph Truemper at 314-609-5829.

## MOTHER'S DAY FOOD DRIVE - THANK YOU



On behalf of our Peace Social Ministry Team, we thank our members and friends for the overwhelming response to our Mother's Day Food Drive to benefit Feed My People. We are blessed by your continued support and generosity!



Congratulations to our 2024 Grade School, High School, and College Graduates!

## PASTOR FURGESON - SABBATICAL REMINDER



Just a reminder that Pastor Furgeson will be on Sabbatical from Memorial Day to Labor Day. During his sabbatical, please contact Pastor Brown or the church office for emergencies and all other needs.

**REV. DR. JON FURGESON, SENIOR PASTOR**

314-601-1039

[pastor.furgeson@peacelutheranstl.org](mailto:pastor.furgeson@peacelutheranstl.org)

**REV. ROBERT BROWN, ASSOCIATE PASTOR**

618-580-8817

[pastor.brown@peacelutheranstl.org](mailto:pastor.brown@peacelutheranstl.org)

## FREE LARGE-PRINT MATERIALS AVAILABLE



Lutheran Braille Workers, an LCMS Recognized Service Organization, produces high-quality, large-print materials and can provide them, free of charge, to people who are visually impaired. Available large-print materials include Bibles, Chapel Talks, Disaster Response devotionals, and various CPH publications, such as Lutheran Service Book and Portals of Prayer. If you know someone in our congregation that might need large-print materials, please contact the office.

## BAPTISM CLASS

**Sunday, July 14, 9:15 - 10:15AM**  
**Commons Conference Room**



Christina Stackle will lead the class and cover the basic teachings and logistics of baptisms at Peace. To register, please visit our website at [www.peacelutheranstl.org](http://www.peacelutheranstl.org). If you are unable to attend this class, but desire to have your child baptized prior to July 14, please call the Church Office at 314-892-5610.

Future class dates include September 8 and November 10.



## MARY MARTHA BIBLE CLASS

Our Bible Study will conclude on May 30 for the summer. Our study will resume on September 5. Please join us as we begin our new study this fall on Spiritual Warfare, led by Pastor Furgeson and Pastor Brown. We meet each Thursday morning at 9:00AM for fellowship, with Bible Study at 9:30AM, in the Kitchen Meeting Room.

## PRAYER - A NEW SUNDAY MORNING SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Gadeken will lead the Sunday Morning Bible Study in Sanctuary Hall, 9:15-10:15AM, while Pastor Furgeson is on sabbatical, from June 2 - September 1. The first part of the summer we will study prayer itself: what it is and isn't, how to make prayer a conversation, what to pray for, special issues like healing, praying in a tongue, obstacles to prayer, and most importantly, how to make time for it and develop a practice you are comfortable with. As Edmond Clowney said, "The Bible does not present the art of prayer; it presents the God of prayer." The second half of the summer, we will get to know this God of prayer with a study of some of the famous prayers in the Bible, and then move into a study of some of the most famous Psalms (*Scripture's prayer book*).

## ALASKA MISSION UPDATE



Our Mission Team is finishing up preparations for their mission work in Hooper Bay, Alaska this summer and will depart St. Louis on June 28.

Everything is packed and mailed. Please pray for our team members, Art Hoeflerlin, Jackie Hoeflerlin, John Hooss, Louise Mullen, Kelley, Chloe, and Holly Powell, as well as the village we will be serving. Our main focus will be sharing the love of Jesus.

Our blessing and send-off from Peace is scheduled for Sunday, June 23, at the 10:30AM service.

We are so very grateful and thank our congregation for their continued support! We can't wait to report back on our trip.

## MEN'S MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Join us for the Men's Morning Bible Study, held every other Thursday morning, (with the exception of holidays) at **7:00AM**, in Sanctuary Hall. Led by Pastor Brown, the class is studying the Large Catechism, with Annotations, and Contemporary Applications. Future Bible study dates can be found on our church website calendar or watch the weekend bulletin.

## 2025 OFFERING ENVELOPE INFORMATION



If you give online or through another giving method and aren't using your offering envelopes, please call the church office with your name and current envelope number. We can then assign you a permanent giving number. This will save time and money as we make plans for 2025.

## ADULT CO-ED VOLLEYBALL AT PEACE

Co-Ed volleyball plays on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-8:00PM in the gymnasium. Co-Ed volleyball is open to anyone 18 years and older. For more information please contact Cameron Stinnett at 314-413-3412 or camstinn16@gmail.com.

## PICKLEBALL OPEN PLAY AT PEACE

Adult, co-ed Pickleball plays on Sunday evenings, 6:00-8:00PM in the gymnasium. The group is open to all levels of experience, ages 17 and older, with equipment and training provided. For more information please contact Jack Jeffcott at liporccarman@gmail.com or 314-856-5379.


## SURVIVING SPOUSES BREAKFAST

Join us on Thursday's, June 13 and July 11, at 9:00AM at the Denny's on South Lindbergh. Our group meets on the second Thursday of each month. For more information on Surviving Spouses, please contact Joyce Schutte at 314-267-7051.

## MENS CLUB

Join us for our meetings on Tuesday's, June 25 and July 23, from 6:00-9:00PM. Our evening begins with a meal and fellowship, followed by our regular meeting. Men's Club is open to all men of Peace, 21 and up!

## QUILTERS CORNER

 Please join each Tuesday in Sanctuary Hall from 9:00AM to 2:00PM. All you need is a sack lunch, we'll provide the rest: needle, thread, thimble, a delicious dessert, and a very good time! If you have any questions, please call Cheryl Turley at 314-223-0744.

***"Quilting Rules: Don't bleed on the fabric, measure twice and cut once, it's not a mistake, it's a creative opportunity, and finally there are no quilt police!"***

## LWML-LADIES GUILD

Ladies Guild will not hold meetings during the months of June and July. Please pray for Paula Jeffcott and Brenda Hargett as they represent our Peace LWML Ladies Guild as Voting Delegates June 7-9, at the LWML Missouri District Convention in Independence, Missouri. They will present the results of the Convention at our fall meeting on September 19, at 10:45AM in Sanctuary Hall.

## LADIES CLUB

We hope you will join us for our upcoming events! June 18: Christmas Cookie or Candy Swap - Please make three dozen of your favorite candy or cookie to swap with others. July 16: Christmas in July - Please bring your "Favorite Thing" gift-wrapped to exchange. Ladies Club is a social organization and open to female members of Peace, ages 18 and up. We meet the third Tuesday of each month, in Sanctuary Hall at 7:00PM. Come check us out!

## PLASTIC MAT MAKING



Tuesday morning, May 7, while the Plastic Mat Making Team was hard at work, Brent came to pick up some of their handiwork. These mats were crocheted by our group here at Peace and Brent will deliver them to a homeless camp. We thank our ladies for their hard work and we thank Brent for delivering the mats to those who need them most!

Our mat-making group meets on the first and third Tuesdays each month, from 9:00AM to noon. We crochet plastic grocery bags into sleeping mats for the homeless. We would love to have more helpers! If you don't crochet, you can help fold, cut or loop the plastic bags. Anyone can handle these tasks, men, women, and children. Oh, and we also have a lot of fun while we work. If you're not available on Tuesdays, we can show you how to work from home. Please contact Anita Thomas at 314-200-6753 for questions or more information.

## MARRIED COUPLES CLUB

### June

Gateway Grizzlies Game, Saturday June 22, 6:30PM, tickets are \$16.00 per person. Paid Reservations are due to Tammy Goodman by June 2. Please contact Tammy if you have any questions at 314-546-9943.

### July

BBQ and Swim Party, Saturday, July 20, 4:00PM, at the home of Rick & Tammy Goodman. Cost is \$10 per couple. Main dish will be provided. Please bring your own beverages and a side dish or dessert to share. Kindly RSVP to Tammy Goodman at 314-546-9943.

**SUMMERTIME**

## OFFICIAL ACTS

### BAPTISM

April 21, 2024 - Grace Marie Eckhardt and Grant William Eckhardt  
April 28, 2024 - Carter John Brinkmann  
April 28, 2024 - Nolan David Biggs  
May 12, 2024 - Camden Woods Duneman  
May 12, 2024 - Charlotte Suzanne Duneman



### FUNERALS

April 26, 2024 - Lois J. Williams, 100  
May 3, 2024 - Vernon E. Gusewelle, 91  
May 3, 2024 - \*Harold Phillip "Sonny" Hunnius, 80

\*Non-member

## PEACE COMMUNICATION SIGN-UP



If you would like to receive text and/or email notifications when a beloved church member dies, or for emergency situations such as church event cancellations due to inclement weather, please contact the church office to sign-up. You may choose email and/or text.

## HOLY COMMUNION SCHEDULE



Holy Communion is offered on the first, third and fifth Sundays of each month.

## MISSIONARY NEWS



Newsletters from Pastor Jensen in Germany and Pastor Cundiff in Latvia are available on our Peace Website or the Bulletin Board in the Commons.

If you would like to support the missionary efforts of Pastor Jensen and Pastor Cundiff, please direct your contributions to "Synodical Missionary Support" at Peace, or directly through the LCMS website.

## ALTAR FLOWER ORDERS



Altar Flower orders are received through the Church Office. Arrangements are \$25 each. Please call the church office with your requests at least two weeks in advance.

## Interested in... ONLINE GIVING?

Scan this QR code or click on "Online Giving" on our Peace website.



Questions? Contact  
Denise Grant @ 314.591.8207  
or email [finance@peacelutheranstl.org](mailto:finance@peacelutheranstl.org)

Vanco, our online giving provider, allows you to set up one time or recurring gifts to Peace Lutheran Church in three simple steps:

1. Scan the QR code on this page or go to <https://peacelutheranstl.org> and click on "Online Giving" to be directed to the Vanco online giving site.
2. Click the "give now" tab in the appropriate giving box.
3. Follow the screen prompts to make a one-time donation or create an account to set up your online recurring giving donations. Questions?

## JEFFERSON BARRACKS MILITARY FOOD DRIVE



Please consider donating items to the Jefferson Barracks Military Food and Products Drive, held at Peace June 1-13, to benefit our Veterans and Military personnel in the St. Louis area. Look for the patriotic box located in the Commons for your donations. A few suggested items include: canned meats, soups, rice, beans, canned vegetables, powdered milk, cereal, cake, pancake mix, syrup, peanut butter, canned fruit, jelly, jams, coffee, powdered creamer, and cleaning products. A full list will be in your church mailbox soon. We thank you and appreciate your continued generosity and support.

## SUNDAY SERVICE ON KFUD



Peace's Sunday service is rebroadcast on KFUD AM 850 every Saturday, from 4:00-5:00PM. Please share this information with your neighbors, friends, family, and especially our homebound members.



## EARLY CHILDHOOD PRESCHOOL

### TEACHER NEEDED



Early Childhood is seeking a part-time Preschool Teacher for the 2024-2025 school year.

A detailed job description is posted on the church bulletin board, or you may contact the church office, or Early Childhood Director, Sue Velten at 314-892-8844 for more information.

## LASE SPECIALIZED EDUCATION

### JOB ANNOUNCEMENT



Are you passionate about making a difference in the lives of children with special learning needs? Do you thrive in a collaborative team environment? If so, LASE Specialized Education wants you to join their team for the 2024-2025 school year.

Qualifications include holding a Missouri teaching certificate in special education, experience in working with children with special learning needs, as well as, strong communication and collaboration skills.

Some responsibilities include providing instruction and support to students with special learning needs, assessing student progress and adjust instruction as needed and communicating regularly with parents/guardians and other members of the education team.

If you meet these qualifications and are eager to make a positive impact, please send your resume to [info@luthranspeciald.org](mailto:info@luthranspeciald.org). We look forward to hearing from you.

At LASE Specialized Education, we are dedicated to providing high-quality education and support to students with special learning needs. Join us in our mission to build life changing success for students, schools and communities through Christ-Centered, innovative specialized education.

## WANTED - GENTLY USED BOOKS



Ladies Club is collecting gently used books for a Book Sale fundraiser to be held in the fall. A collection box is located in the Commons. Please ask your friends and check your house for books you can donate! If you have a significant amount of books and need assistance getting them to church, please call Betty Via at 314-616-1771 to arrange a pick up.

## SAVE YOUR CANCELLED POSTAGE STAMPS



LWML Ladies Guild is very thankful to Peace members and friends for saving their cancelled postage stamps.

All stamps are welcome, except the metered stamps and stamps from advertising bulk mail. Stamps may be placed in the container located on the Commons counter.

All money earned benefits the Missouri District Mission Grant Projects.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL - HELP NEEDED



Sunday School is looking for substitute teachers to help in all grade levels. Interested? Please contact Pastor Brown for more information.

## USHERS NEEDED



We are still looking for men who are willing to serve on an usher team. This is one of the easiest ways to serve our congregation. Typical service is only one Saturday/Sunday per month, with the exception of months with special services, (e.g., Lent, Advent, Christmas, etc.) If interested, or for more information, please contact Barry Hammon at [barry.hammon@wwt.com](mailto:barry.hammon@wwt.com).

## FELLOWSHIP TIME - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Help is needed with the coffee and pastry set-up and clean-up on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. If you would like to help, please contact Ralph or Grace Truemper at 314-544-0233.

*Join us for Fellowship Time*

**Every Sunday  
at 9:00AM  
in the  
Commons**





We have a few Eat and Earns over the summer months. Join us at Freddy's in South County on Wednesday, June 12, from 4:00-8:00PM, and at Oberweis, on Thursday, July 11, all day. Green Park earns a percentage of total sales from these businesses when you eat there during the specified dates and times. We appreciate your support of our school! Enrollment continues for the 2024-2025 school year and new families are encouraged to schedule a tour. School tours are hosted throughout the school year and over the summer months as well. Contact Katie Gaeta at [katie.gaeta@greenparklutherschool.org](mailto:katie.gaeta@greenparklutherschool.org) to set yours up today. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to see frequent updates about Green Park activities, students and staff.

Follow us at:

- [www.greenparklutherschool.org](http://www.greenparklutherschool.org) •
- [www.facebook.com/greenparklutherschool](https://www.facebook.com/greenparklutherschool)
- [www.instagram.com/greenparkls](https://www.instagram.com/greenparkls) • [www.twitter.com/greenparkls](https://www.twitter.com/greenparkls)

**The mission of Green Park is to welcome and care for all families with the love of Jesus and to academically prepare children in a challenging and enriching environment.**



★ **LUSO** ★

**DUTCH TOUCH INTERNATIONAL SOCCER CAMP JUNE 24-27**

HURRY AND REGISTER TODAY  
GRADES 7th - 12th






**JAN PRUIJN**  
Former NEC Nijmegen Manager  
Former youth international trainer/director at Ajax Amsterdam  
Former youth Everton FC (U17)  
Former Ajax Dijkzwaai Town First-team Manager  
KWIS Certified Coach

**JUNE 24-27**  
6:00-8:30 PM  
Lutheran High School South  
9515 Tesson Ferry Road  
St Louis MO, 63123


CALL 314-368-4630  
or email:  
[KHalveland@sbcglobal.net](mailto:KHalveland@sbcglobal.net)  
US\$ 140\*  
\* INCLUDES CAMP SHIRT

WANT THE BEST IN TOUCH AND TACTICAL TRAINING FOR YOUR PLAYER?  
THEN LEARN FROM THE DUTCH



[LSlancers.org/summer](http://LSlancers.org/summer)

NOW *faith*  
IS THE  
SUBSTANCE OF THINGS  
HOPED FOR,  
THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS  
NOT SEEN.  
*Hebrews 11:1*





**JULY 22-26**  
7:00 AM - 4:00 PM

# KIDS SUMMER CAMP

K-4TH GRADE BOYS AND GIRLS

- ▶ Tons of Outdoor Activities
- ▶ Treasure Hunt, Adventure Games
- ▶ Test Your Skill in Sports
- ▶ Story Time
- ▶ Interactive Games
- ▶ Creative Sessions and more

Scan here to register



**\$275 per child or \$250 (multi child discount)**

4248 Green Park Road Saint Louis, MO 63125

Summer Camp powered by  
St. Louis Steamers Soccer Club in partnership with Green Park Lutheran School



**ACTIVITIES**



**FRIENDSHIP**



**OUTDOOR**



# TIP-OFF BASKETBALL CAMP

Improve your basketball skills to the next level while having a fun and enjoyable basketball camp experience

**Skill Focus:** Shooting, Dribbling, Defense, Finishing, Footwork, Passing and Teamwork.

**COACHES**



**Jacob Stackle & Brady Susic**  
Varsity players at Lutheran South. Jacob (CCLS '22) attends Peace Lutheran and Brady (St. Paul '22) attends St. Paul Lutheran Church

**JUNE 17 - 23 & JULY 15- 19**  
Boys age 7-12  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**\$150**

**INCLUDED:** Shirt, snacks, and drinks will be provided

**Free**

**Registration Link**  
[tipoffbasketballcamp.com](http://tipoffbasketballcamp.com)

**More Information**  
314-714-8324 Jacob

**Location: Peace Lutheran Church**  
737 Barracksview Rd  
St. Louis Mo, 63125





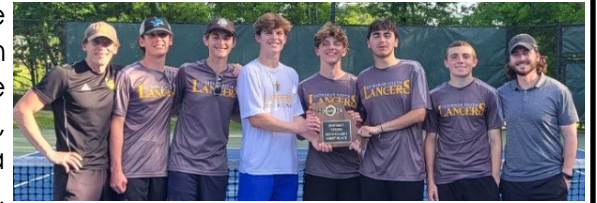
**LUTHERAN  
HIGH SCHOOL  
SOUTH**

We inducted 73 new members into LuSo's chapter of the National Honor Society and recognized 53 graduating seniors. These students have earned a cumulative weighted GPA of 3.5 or higher and have exhibited character, scholarship, service, and leadership.



More than 150 athletes competed in our Special Olympics track and field meet. It was a great day to share God's love!

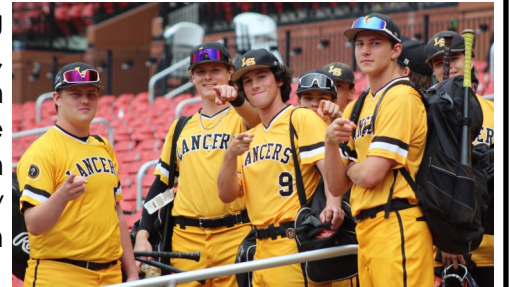
The boys tennis team won their third consecutive District championship, defeating Windsor 5-0 in the final round. The boys track and field team are District champions! Ben Long won the triple jump, and Andrew Wilds took first in pole vault. James McCoy is a district champ in javelin. Seven additional athletes scored, qualifying for Sectionals. Ten athletes qualified on the girls' side, including Reese Schelp, who won the 800-meter run and Tess Kasperek, who advances in pole vault. The 4X400 relay made up of Reese Schelp, Katelynn Karsten, Grace Prange, and Josie Winfrey had an impressive finish to win the district title.



Graduates from the Class of 2024 were accepted to 359 universities and earned more than \$11.3 million in scholarships. They are accepting \$5.5 million in academic and athletic awards. LuSo graduates will be attending college in 19 different states across the country from New York to California, and even Australia! About 60% are attending school in

Missouri. Seven students signed to continue their athletic careers in college. We can't wait to see what they will accomplish!

The Lancers are officially the Battle at Busch champions! After spending the day watching the Cardinals game at Lutheran Day at the Ballpark, the baseball team played a game on the field against the Sullivan Eagles. Senior Connor Terbrock went three for four launching the Lancers to a 6-0 victory over Sullivan. Brendan Graves threw seven shutout innings giving up just four hits while striking out five batters. Henry Beumer, Mac Floyd, Nate Eichhorn, and Michael Lind each drove in one run for the Lancers. There's nothing quite like playing like the pros!



Legendary coach Roy Pfund threw out the ceremonial first pitch at the Lutheran South vs. Rockwood game as we unveiled the new baseball scoreboard bearing his name. After an alumni and student poll, the Lutheran South community decided it would only be appropriate to have a "P" in field. Coach Pfund was a beloved science teacher and baseball coach from 1962-1988. During his distinguished tenure, he led the Lancers to six Conference championships, six District championships, two Sectionals, and an impressive winning percentage of over 70%. Thanks to the incredible support of our generous donors, we have established a

scholarship in Coach Pfund's name. We are pleased to recognize his remarkable legacy and present to you *Pfund Pfield*.

Lutheran South grad Cody Schrader is headed to San Francisco! Schrader, a former Division II standout who led the SEC in rushing last season at Mizzou, topped the list of undrafted free agents signed by the San Francisco 49ers.



## FAMILY CHOIR OPPORTUNITY



Peace's new Family Choir will sing once a month during the summer. Family Choir is for the entire family from Children to Grandparents and everyone else! The purpose is for current choir members to be joined by other families in the congregation that cannot commit to singing in the church choir full-time. There are three opportunities this summer. You may attend one, two or all three! The choir will have a short rehearsal the Thursday before they sing at the 10:30AM church service. Your entire family is invited so no need to find a babysitter, or come up with any other excuse. The dates are:

Rehearsal Thursday, June 13, at 7:00PM • Sing for Worship Sunday, June 16, at 10:30AM

Rehearsal Thursday, July 11, at 7:00PM • Sing for Worship Sunday, July 14, at 10:30AM

Rehearsal Thursday, August 8, at 7:00PM • Sing for Worship Sunday, August 11, at 10:30AM

**COME BE A PART OF THIS SUMMER MUSICAL EXPERIENCE!**

## TRIVIA NIGHT HOSTED BY COUPLES CLUB



Join us on Saturday, August 24, in the gymnasium at Peace for a fun-filled night of Trivia, hosted by Peace member, David Baese. Doors open at 5:55PM, with games beginning at 7:00PM. There will be silent auction items and attendance prizes. You don't want to miss out! Our trivia theme is Margaritaville - *It's 5 o'clock Somewhere!* Prizes given to the best dressed! (Feel free to participate, but not required.)

Tickets sales will begin Sunday, July 21, before and after services, at the Commons counter. Cost is \$20.00 per person (tables of 8-10).


We are looking for Round Sponsors at \$50 per round. If you are interested or have questions please contact Barb Decker 314-541-5898 or Gina Werkmeister 314-638-8268. We are looking forward to a FUN night.

## SAVE THE DATE


### AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



The American Red Cross will be at Peace on Friday, August 2, from 1:00-5:00PM for a summer blood drive. Watch the bulletin for your opportunity to schedule a time to sign-up! Donations save lives!



 Concordia Seminary  
ST. LOUIS

WE ARE YOUR  
**SEMINARIES**

 CTSFW  
CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA



**"THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL, BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW." (MATTHEW 9:37 ESV)**

[weareyourseminaries.org](http://weareyourseminaries.org)





## EVANGELISM MINISTRY



**CELEBRATE SUMMER!** A gift of music, food, fun, and friendship with our Peace neighbors on Saturday, May 25. We are thankful for our Director of Music, Burnell Hackman, and the many talented musicians! We appreciate the love and support from our members for the wonderful food, fun games, help with parking, and assistance with set-up, and take-down. We love our volunteers! Inviting non-churched family and friends to our Peace events is a way to encourage conversations about Jesus and deepen friendships. Think about other ways you can encourage and invite.

**"Encouragement** is found in the Gospel which is the basis and motivation for our work as Christ's witnesses." *(From the Every One His Witness workbook)*

***From the High Priestly Prayer Jesus prayed for His disciples***  
***"Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth." John 17:17***



## LIFE MINISTRY - VISIBILITY

*"Through the love of Jesus Christ the Life Ministry Team exists to equip Peace Lutheran Church to sanctify life at all stages"*



Easter Sunday, March 31, was declared "Transgender Day of Visibility" by our blasphemous president, who later denied saying this. Nothing was mentioned about Easter and the meaning it holds for millions of Americans. The following day was the White House Easter egg roll in which children were told to not draw pictures with religious themes. Easter eggs were seen, the meaning behind Easter was ignored. Let's look at this theme of visibility and ask five questions.

The first two questions go together. What is visible? What is invisible? With June being designated "Pride Month", rainbows, slogans and parades celebrating sexual perversion will be quite visible. The spiritual warfare and demonic forces behind this aren't so visible, but they're just as real. Political advertisements for maintaining abortion rights will be highly visible. The aborted children who will be victims of such rights won't be visible, but the shedding of innocent blood is still seen by their Father in heaven.

The Ten Commandments and prayer in public schools have become invisible. Christmas break has been turned into winter break. Christmas carols have been replaced by secular songs and "Merry Christmas" is now "Happy Holidays." Easter and Good Friday are often ignored altogether. Sporting events and shopping on Sunday mornings are visible. People attending church are increasingly less visible.

The third question is "Who sees this?" Everyone can see these events taking place. Only Christians have the spiritual eyes to see the consequences of the pagan practices that are replacing Christianity in our society. In Romans 1, the phrase "God gave them up" is used three times to describe the results of pagan choices. What were they given to? Lust, perversion, a debased mind, envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness, insolence, arrogance and rebellion against God. Only the spiritually blind could embrace such a lifestyle.

The fourth question is "What is the cost?" The cost of visibility is becoming increasingly high in our nation. Ask 87-year-old Eva Edl who faces eleven years in federal prison for praying outside an abortion clinic. Or Jack Phillips, the Colorado baker who has been prosecuted repeatedly by the state of Colorado for refusing to bake cakes honoring gay weddings and other occasions pushed by LGBTQ organizations.

The price of invisibility is even higher. Things might seem okay when you comply with a culture hostile to Christianity, but you will lose your integrity. If you continue down this path, you will lose your soul. Proverbs 14:12 says: "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death."

Here's the final question. How visible is my Christianity to those around me? As our culture becomes darker, your light as a Christian shines brighter. Make each day a day of visibility for Jesus.

**Peace Life Ministry Team**

## THE EXTRAORDINARY ORDINARY LIFE - YOU CANNOT STAY AS YOU WERE

In most modern adventure stories, the person involved has been chosen, somehow, to have special gifts and abilities that mark that person as the Adventurer. Once their special nature is known, they are thrust by that revelation into a quest usually with great, world-ending stakes.

There are moments even in the Bible like this. We have Abraham called out of Ur. We have David anointed by Samuel. We have Elisha chosen by Elijah. Of course, we have the Twelve Disciples called by Jesus to Himself. We have persons with a calling from the womb, Samson and John the Baptist, both of whom had their work foretold to their parents. Each was set apart to serve in a particular way as recorded in Scripture.

As far as I know, no angels spoke to *my* parents, nor did God ever speak to me immediately and personally in the manner like Moses and the others. I expect these realities are true for you also. But that does not negate the reality of your calling as Adventurer.

When God called you to Himself through Baptism and His Word, the Holy Spirit also did something to you. You are no longer what you once were. You are marked and more than marked; He transformed you. This is a positive transformation unlike, for example, the Lupin of Harry Potter becoming a lycanthrope. You were a sinner, but now God has also made you His Child. You are a holy one of God.

Don't yawn yet! You are familiar with that idea, but perhaps have forgotten its implications. Nearly every time in adventures, the Adventurer is set into a world-within-a-world, given a revelation of how things *really* are versus how most *think* they are, like the simulation for Neo in *The Matrix* or Harry Potter being a wizard, or Frodo facing the world beyond the Shire.

Just like those Adventurers, you have been brought into a shift in seeing the world differently than the rest of the persons in it, and you cannot go back to your ignorance. There is not a set of gods out there demanding sacrifices to bribe them or stave off their anger. You are not a collection of atoms up from the evolutionary goo who will breathe for a while and then be food for the worms.

Rather, you have been brought into the open secret of life: we are created in the image of God and those in Christ have been caught up into His life. You are an everlasting reality caught up in a quest with eternal stakes. You are made for something greater than just existing through your days. You are now a child of the King of the Universe.

The persons of the world are constantly deferring to political powers as the highest authority. But they are not. Religions in the world claim they have secrets to life, the universe, and everything, but they are as fictitious as Neo's simulation world. Only the Bible reveals the true nature of existence, what it is for, and to where you are headed.

You cannot stay as you were. You are given the gift to speak the truths of God into the world, the gift to call good "good" and evil "evil"—to call a thing what it is in a world that cannot in its brokenness. You have the gift to forgive a world that does not, and to speak words of life in Christ into a world epitomized by death. All of this while you are on the quest of eternal life in Christ yourself, to persevere against the powers assailed against your success.

Those fallen powers are vast and formidable. Make no mistake, this road is perilous and the stakes are no smaller than eternity.

-Pastor Jon Furgeson



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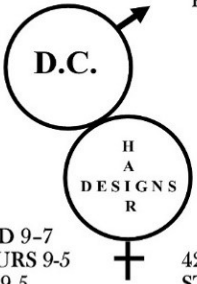
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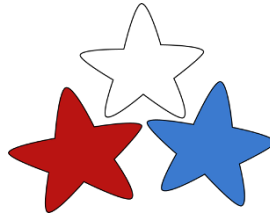
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