

Peace Lutheran Church

August 2025



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Pastor Megan's Peaceful Ponderings

One of the more interesting things that I hear as a pastor is people coming up to me and saying I didn't know that. It is more often than not in reference to the ministry and day to day operations of the church. For example;

Pastor, I didn't know we did this ministry.

Pastor, I didn't know volunteers were doing this each week.

Pastor, I didn't know that the church did that.

As a Pastor, I am deeply involved in just about everything that happens at Peace Lutheran Church, which allows me the privilege of seeing God at work in and throughout community in some pretty amazing ways, and this month I wanted to share some of that with a newsletter article focused on Did You Know! Let me know what you knew and what surprised you!

1. Did you know that the council does a book study throughout the year each year as part of their meetings to help them grow in faith. Council members take turns leading the conversation about each chapter for 15-20 min each month.
2. Did you know that we partner with Alpine Workshop to have our newsletters folded and addressed each month? They are normally here on the last Monday of the month.
3. Did you know that all the mowing, gardens, and grounds keeping at Peace is done by 10-12 volunteers?
4. Did you know that you don't need to read music to be part of our choir or bell choir?
5. Did you know that each Sunday 3-4 residents at the Brook gather to live stream our worship?
6. Did you know that it takes an average of 10 -15 people to make worship happen each Sunday? Greeters, Altar Guild, Cleaners, Ushers, Technology, Music, and More.
7. Did you know that we have ministry teams for worship, fellowship, stewardship, finance, the inmate ministry, and are working on putting together teams for service and for safety?
8. Did you know that on average we worship 70-80 people each Sunday between our in person and livestream services?
9. Did you know that our quilters make over 60 baby quilts each month for new mothers in Gaylord and Grayling?

10. Did you know that each month Pastor Megan does communion at the Brook, devotions for New Life Pregnancy Center, and will hopefully be doing a communion service at the jail by the end of the year?
11. Did you know that over 12 different people and families have served as worship assistants in 2025 so far?
12. Did you know that Peace has 12 dedicated accounts to help fund things like camperships, flowers, family events, hunger ministry, building maintenance, special projects and more. These are special gifts and grants that function apart from the general budget?
13. Did you know we apply for and use an average of 10 Thrivent Grants a Year to get \$2,500 to fund community events and special ministry at Peace?
14. Did you know that in an average month, Peace hosts 1-2 special fellowship events and 2-3 community volunteers events?
15. Did you know that so far in 2025 we have had 3 baptisms and 1 affirmation of faith?

My reason for writing this isn't to make you feel bad if you didn't know something, or to make you feel like you need to be doing more... Honestly, it's kind of the opposite. I want everyone at Peace to know how big God is... and how many people God is at work through.

I want you to know that you are part of something amazing by supporting this community, and participating in your faith. I want you to think about all that God is doing here in our small corner of the world, and then multiply that by the 100 churches in our synod, the 65 synods in our country, and the billions of people living out their lives in faith each day!

I want you to know beyond all shadow of a doubt, that you are not alone in any of the work God is doing, because God is at work in literally billions of people, lives, and actions that we don't see in our day to day lives... we couldn't know them all if we tried.

What we can know is that in a world that needs to hear of love, compassion, forgiveness, grace, and hope God is at work, through your hands, my hands, and through all the hands that we don't know about yet. Did you know you were part of something so amazing!

Financial Summary

THANK YOU to everyone who has helped make ministry at Peace Lutheran Church possible through your generous support! Please take some time to look at our current budget numbers.

Fund	Amount	Notes
Designated Giving through June 2025	\$14,082.62	Gifts to building fund, capital campaign, memorials, flowers, and other dedicated accounts
Undesignated Giving through June 2025	\$109,171.04	Funds for general operating costs, running about \$6,000 behind right now.
General Account Investment through June 2025	\$115,740.97	We have had to withdraw \$10,000 from this account so far to meet the general budget, we made a little bit of this back in interest.
Total Spent through June 2025	\$152,149.74	Currently we are running at about a \$5,000 loss for 2025.
Total to benevolence through June 2025	\$3,437.68	Based on giving
Total to local hunger through June 2025	\$1,800	\$300 per month
Total to world hunger through June 2025	\$500.50	Based on giving
Total for June Fund of the Month - Inmate Ministry	\$840.00	Outreach to homeless inmates in our local jail as a sign of God's love for them.

Are you a Thrivent Member?

Let Pastor Megan know if you are a member of Thrivent, you may have access to Thrivent Action Team Grants and Thrivent Choice Dollars that can help us at the church! Action team grants are one time grants of \$250 that can be used for church and community events. Choice Dollars are funds you can direct to a non-profit of your choice! Please get in touch with Pastor Megan or your Thrivent Representative if you have any questions!

Stay in Touch Throughout the Month!!!

There is always a lot going on at Peace Lutheran! Stay in touch with us throughout the month by checking out our website www.peacegaylord.net or following us on Facebook! You can see pictures, get Bible readings, find out what's going on, take quizzes, watch Bible Studies, and so much more!!!

Ice Cream Social-

Peace Lutheran Church is once again hosting an Ice Cream Social on **Aug. 10th**, after Worship Service. We will have Ice Cream with lots of different toppings! You can sign up in the Narthex if you plan on attending, and also to bring your favorite Ice Cream Topping! All are welcome!

Faith in Action

Our congregation is working at the *Otsego County Food Pantry* this month and the dates are: **Aug. 7th and Aug. 28th.** *Volunteers are needed from 11:45 am-2 pm* to help pack food, stock shelves, and hand out donations.

If you are able to volunteer, please get in touch with Graydon Blank.



Community Meal

Peace Lutheran Church will be hosting the **Community Meal on August 15th . @ 4:00-5:30** at the Congregational Church. Volunteers are needed starting at 12:00 pm to prepare.

And we will need help for serving and clean up from 4pm-7pm. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, or Please call Glenn Deakin at 231-585-6760 if you are able to volunteer your time, or bring cookies.



Today's Women of Faith

Today's Women of Faith will meet on **Aug. 26th at 12-noon** to make soup and then at 1 pm to discuss the latest issue of Living Lutheran Magazine. All are welcome! Also, there will be some delicious soup in the freezer for anyone who would like some to take home. Any questions you can contact Gloria Varty 989-657-2107

Summer Bonfires

Join us on **August 20th at 5:00 pm** as we have a backyard bonfire at the church! We will have hotdogs, marshmallows, music, and more! Bring your own chair and come join the fun!



A Note about Online Giving

When you give online, please consider using a debit card, or accepting the processing fees so that your whole gift will be given to Peace Lutheran Church. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Share the Love

One of the easiest ways you can help out Peace Lutheran is to like, share, and comment on Facebook or Google posts you see come from the church. This is especially helpful when we have community events and special worship services, but anytime you do it we are widening our reach and inviting new people to connect with the church! Don't be shy, share the love!!!!

Prayer Requests This Month:

Allen Ketterwell	James Merrifield	Norman Olson
Ann Iseler	Janet McCall	Pat Blake
Barbara Warren	Jen Buhr	Patrice Manz
Bill Taylor	Jennifer Gadberry	Richard Morrison
Bruce Leseski	Jimmy Lappan	Robert Morse, Jr.
Candy Gardner	Joe Chew	Steve & Jan Seacrest
Carol Schubert	John Mattson	Terry Graunke
Chuck Forrester	Kelly Quinn	Tom Johnson
Darren Bergquist	Ken McGrann	Tyler Fuller
David Olson	Ken Richardson	Rich Hempel
Dee Malhoit	Linda Robinson	Ryan Kerr
Donna Bostwick	Linda Wilson	
Ellen Van Alstine	Mark and Laurie Clear	
Fran Morse	Marsha Fountain	
Glenn Deakin	Mary Zahringer	
Graydon Blank	Melaine Roma	

Greetings everyone! There is a binder located outside the sanctuary and anyone is welcome to write down the name of someone they would like to be prayed for. While we are always happy to pray for anyone, we also want to ensure that our prayer list is up to date and meaningful. To help us with that, we will normally remove a name from the prayer list after four weeks unless we have heard from the person or the person making the request. Thank you as always for holding each up in prayer!!

Get Your Newsletter Online!

Would you like to get your newsletter faster? Simply call the church office and ask to have your newsletter emailed to! You will get an email instead of a paper copy of the Newsletter right to your inbox! Also Snowbirds-we can add you to the online mailing list for the time you are south and move you back to paper copy when you return. *This helps save paper and postage for the church!*

Fund of the Month - LWR Shipping Costs

The August Fund of the Month goes to support the shipping for the Lutheran World Relief health and school kits we assemble throughout the year at Peace Lutheran. It costs around \$400 to ship these kits to the places they will do the most good each year, be that to schools in rural African or Latin American countries, refugee camps, or to Texas to help with flood relief. We will be assembling kits on Sept 7th as part of God's Work Our Hands Sunday!

Lutheran World Relief

We have just passed the season of giving, but the needs around the world and at home continue year round. Take a look at the annual report to see some of the many things that we have accomplished in 2024. Again this year, we will be collecting items every month for Lutheran World Relief. Please see below for a list of items needed:

- July/August-School Supplies; Spiral Notebooks (70 pg); Rulers; Pencil Sharpeners; Blunt Scissors; Ballpoint Pens (Blue or Black); Crayons (16 or 24 ct); No. 2 Pencils; 2 ½ Scissors



Save the Date - God's Work Our Hands Sunday!

Be sure you have **Sept 7th** marked on your calendar for **God's Work Our Hands Sunday!** This is a day of service throughout the ELCA! Members from Lutheran churches around the country will flood their communities wearing yellow t-shirts proclaiming that God's work is being done with our hands! Peace will be doing two projects this year. Assembling Health and School Kits for Lutheran World Relief at the church, and cleaning up along the highway outside of the church. We need many hands for both projects, and encourage you to sign up! The work will start between 11am and 11:30, and a light lunch will be served at 1:30pm. Sign up to help on the bulletin board in the Narthex, and contact the office if you would like to buy a shirt.

Back to School Blessing Event!

Peace Lutheran will be hosting a Back to School Blessing event for the community on will be on Sunday, **August 24th from 4pm-5:30pm!** We are looking for volunteers to help give hair cuts, run games and crafts, cook and serve food, and help assemble blessing bags for families to pick up! Please sign up to help in the Narthex and be sure to invite any kids, teachers, or school employees you might know to come to the event.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Nancy Pike has restocked the supply of yarn, pattens, knitting needles, and crochet hooks! If anyone is interested in making prayer shawls or lap robes to be given to folks in need of God's comfort and healing, please talk to Nancy! Thank you to all our current prayer shawl makers!



Safety and Medical Team

Providing safe worship, service, and fellowship opportunities is a big part of who we are at Peace Lutheran. To help us do that, we are forming a Safety and Medical Team that will help us draft safety policies and procedures, do annual safety checks for the church, arrange training opportunities, and help out during emergencies. We welcome anyone who would like to join this team! If you are interested, please speak to Pastor Megan or Ellen Bonter. We hope to have our first meeting in September.

Recycling at the Church

Care for creation and good stewardship practices are important to us here at Peace Lutheran. We offer two ways that you can recycle while in the church building. Paper, plastic, and glass can be placed in the large bin in the kitchen, and cans or bottles with a deposit on them can be placed in the bin in the back pantry of the kitchen.

We will be looking for several people to take the regular recycling to the bins in town several times a month, and if you are willing to help with this, there is a sign up sheet in the Narthex. Also, we encourage you to get in touch with Pastor Megan or Mike Ruegsegger.



Gaylord Women's Retreat-'Get Your Pink On!'-August 9th

We have a lot of fun planned with the goal for every attendee to get a good dose of 'Pink'. We will take a look at what we can learn from our pink sister, the Flamingo. She can lose her pink from spreading herself too thin. We've all done it. Women give of themselves to everyone else and then there is little left for us. This retreat is about taking care of YOU! Please join us for worship, music, prayer, food, games and testimonies. Please embrace the theme and wear some Pink! The retreat begins at 8:30 am until 3:00 pm at the Gaylord Methodist Church. (215 S. Center Ave.) There is a \$15 registration fee which covers morning nibbles, lunch, and more.

The deadline to register is July 27th, and you can pick up a registration form at the church, or you can register at www.gaylordmethodist.org/womensretreatpay

Crop Walk

The annual *GAYLORD CROP HUNGER WALK* is **Sunday September 28th** .

We will be gathering under the pavilion downtown to start the walk this year. Registration will begin at 1:00 pm. Music and Worship before the walk will be 1:30-2:00 pm. The Walk begins at 2:00 pm. You can check out the Hunger Walk on Facebook @ Gaylord Area Crop Walk.

"Give generously, for your gifts will return to you later. Divide your gifts among many, for in the days ahead you yourself may need much help." –Ecclesiastes 11:1



Judy Blake	Aug. 1		Dominic Signorello	Aug. 2
Emily Easter	Aug. 6		Haley Peterson	Aug. 7
Holly Peterson	Aug. 7		Tammy Boylan	Aug. 10
Kathy Blom	Aug. 11		Taylor Matuszak	Aug. 12
Taylor Race	Aug. 12		Kerrie Daenzer	Aug. 14
Emily Lauster	Aug. 14		Jeffery Mead	Aug. 15
Ron Race	Aug. 15		Darin Childs	Aug. 19
Nadia Hoover	Aug. 20		James Lappan	Aug. 28
Chris Lenartowicz	Aug. 28		Barbara Kay	Aug. 30
Shelly Kihn	Aug. 30			

If your name does not appear on our celebration listing, Please contact the office so we can include it



David and Laura Lentz	Aug. 4		Ray & Shelly Kihn	Aug. 13
Richard & Candy Gardner	Aug. 14		Jim & Carol Hartford	Aug. 15
James & Barbara Lappan	Aug. 18		Tom & Sandy Mammoser	Aug. 30

Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction

Once again Peace will be holding our *Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction on Tuesday, Sept. 30th* to help support our Capital Campaign. We will be collecting donations for the silent auction throughout August and September. These can be carvings, quilts, crafts, and items you have made, themed baskets that you put together, services you might offer such as cleaning, organizing, or yard work, homemade jams or jellies, or gift cards for local restaurants, golf courses, stores, or salons.

Please plan to have all items to the church by Sept 15th, and include a suggested value. You can sign up to donate items or services/and or help with the dinner and clean up in the office or on the bulletin board in the narthex.

UPCOMING EVENTS!!!!

There will be a lot of great things happening throughout the next few months at Peace Lutheran Church! Please be sure to put the following date in your family calendar so you can join in all the fun! You can sign up to host an event in the church office, or on the sign up sheet in the narthex. Hosting involves making sure the space is set up and decorated, shopping for supplies if needed, and coordinating volunteers on the day of the event. We encourage you to sign up as teams to host different events that you enjoy,

- Aug. 7th-Otsego County Food Pantry 12:00 pm-2:00 pm
- Aug. 9th-Women's Retreat @ the Methodist Church 12:00 pm
- Aug. 10th-Ice Cream Social for Fellowship-10:30
- Aug. 15th-Community Meal-3:00 pm-5:00 pm
- Aug. 24th-Back to School Blessing Event 4:00 pm -5:30 pm
- Aug. 28th-Otsego County Food Pantry 12:00 pm-2:00 pm
- Sept. 7th-God's Work Our Hands Sunday
- Sept. 21st.-Quilter Sunday
- Sept. 23rd-Fellowship at the Farm at Legacy Acres 1:00 pm
- Sept. 28th-Crop Walk
- Sept. 28th-Silent Auction Set-up
- Sept. 30th-Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm

Parish Council Members and Roles:

Ellen Bonter-*President*

Pam Richardson-*Vice President and Recording Secretary*

Jan Ruegsegger-*Financial Secretary*

Barb Paulins-*Service and Mission*

Chris Olson-*Worship and Music*

Mike Ruegsegger-*Property and Finance*

Cheryl Collins-Thompson-*Congregational Life and Treasurer*

July 16 Parish Council Meeting Notes:

- A review of chapter 6 from the “Power Surge” book entitled Beliefs, Values, Vision and Mission. We found this chapter to be particularly thought-provoking, and considerable time was spent on how we can begin the process of discerning what the mission and vision of Peace Lutheran Church is. We know there will be information gathering – this has already begun with the survey you recently received. There will be more surveys to come on various topics, so please be sure to let us know your thoughts. This is an exciting time, and we’re so happy EVERYONE will be involved and have a voice for our future.
- There are still a few tree limbs down around our grounds. If you have a desire to help with the continuation of the clean-up, please let Mike Ruegsegger know. We can also use extra hands in some of these more labor-intensive tasks, so please prayerfully consider how you can help.
- We are also in the process of reviewing the policies and procedures of Peace. At this meeting, it was decided that it’s time to create a Safety & Medical team to oversee these areas. We are looking for volunteers with pertinent life/career experience with EMS, fire, law enforcement, mental health and medical services and public administration. If you feel called to be involved, please reach out to Pastor Megan.
- The budget team will be meeting on August 20th to begin the process of compiling our 2026 budget. Please keep them in your prayers as they work to find the way through this process to help us meet our mission goals.
- Here is another reminder that we aren’t doing a really good job of assuring that the lights and fans are off and that all doors are locked when leaving the building. Please do your part and check those items when you depart. Sometimes the doors may appear locked from the inside but may not be locked from the outside, so double check from both sides.

Please contact any Council member with any questions, thoughts or ideas.

Together we are Peace!

Reaching Office Staff

While Pastor Megan and Tammy have access to all the email accounts at Peace Lutheran, the best way to reach them with items for the newsletter, announcements, or questions is at the following emails.

Pastor Megan - gaylordpeace@gmail.com

Tammy - plcgoffice@gmail.com

Michelle - apeacelutheran@gmail.com

Please do not text announcements, reports, newsletter info, or letters as this makes it harder for staff to work with the information. If you are ever in need of pastoral care in an emergency situation please reach out to Pastor Megan directly on her cell phone via call or text at 231-730-4127.

Do you have something you want added to our next month's newsletter?

Please contact the office for more information.

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Address Service Requested



Rev. Megan Crouch, Pastor

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Live Stream Service @ 9:30 am

Drive-up Communion @ 11:00 am

Website: www.peacegaylord.net