Tidings of Peace

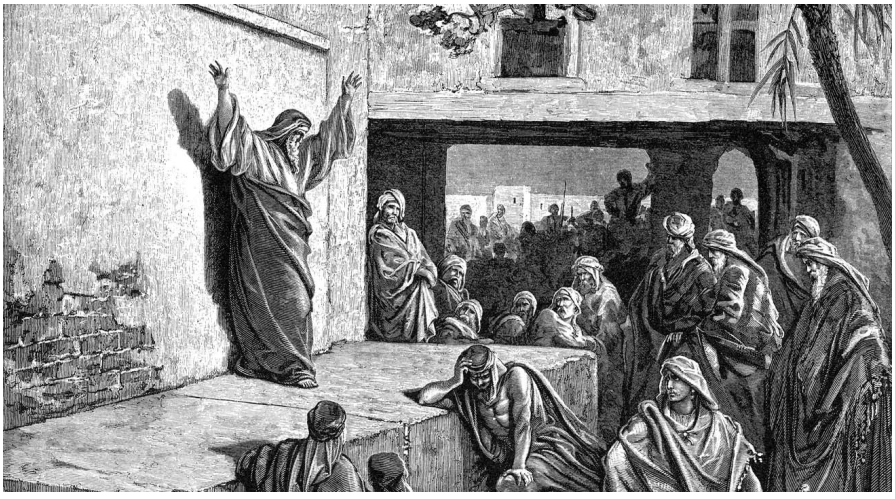
come grow with us

Embodied Justice, Expansive Kindness, Humble Walking

https://www.livinglutheran.org/theology-beliefs/embodied-justice-expansive-kindness-humble-walking/

September 2026

Series editor's note: *The 2026 theme for "Deeper understandings" is faithful witness in challenging times. This year, various authors will explore what it means for the ELCA, and each of us as Lutherans, to face the headwinds of societal fracture, loneliness and political contention, and to bear witness to the good news of Jesus Christ that forgives, frees and transforms not only us individually but the whole world. We hope you will be encouraged and empowered to plant your feet firmly on the rock of our faith and speak joyfully and hopefully about the power of the gospel to foster peace and justice in a world desperately in need of both.*
—Kristin Johnston Largen, president of Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, on behalf of the ELCA's seminaries



What does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8).

Micah's familiar words are not a mushy devotional slogan. They arise from a courtroom scene in which God calls the people to remember who they are and whose they are. The question is not whether they can speak the right words but whether their common life bears witness to God's mercy, justice and truth.

That same question presses upon us now. We live in a time when public speech is loud, memory is contested and neighbors are too easily turned into threats. History is edited, dignity is denied to some, depending on the body they occupy, and even Scripture is

interpreted to protect one's privilege. At such a time as this, Christian witness cannot be reduced to mere opinion, branding or self-righteous claims of victory in an argument. Rather it requires engaged solidarity with the vulnerable, and the embodiment of the values of love, justice and life for all—regardless.

Jesus summed up what God requires of mortals when he responded to the smug lawyer who sought to know how one can get into the kingdom of God: love God and love your neighbor. Using the story of the good Samaritan, Jesus narrated how embodied justice, expansive kindness and engaged solidarity are required to show one's faith—one's relationship with God and others—in action. Jesus reminds us that the gospel is not merely preached, heard and admired. It is practiced. It is carried in feet that walk toward suffering, hands that bind wounds, voices that speak truth and communities that refuse to look away.

For Lutherans, this witness begins in grace. We don't act for justice to prove our worth before God. We act because God has already met us in Christ, forgiven us, freed us and joined us to the neighbor. The water of baptism and the dust of Ash Wednesday remind us of our shared creatureliness. We are formed from the same earth, sustained by the same breath and marked by the same promise. No person is disposable. No community is outside the reach of God's love. Through the grace and love of Jesus Christ, God's arms hold us all together as one family.

This is why Micah's threefold call still matters. To do justice is to ask who is being harmed and what must be repaired. To love kindness is to practice mercy—not as sentiment but as covenant loyalty, a steadfast commitment to another's flourishing. To walk humbly with God is to relinquish domination and move at God's pace, attentive to the least, the last and the left out.

In our time, we have a good example of engaged solidarity for embodied justice in the Barefoot Walk: Mothers' Call for Peace. Reem Al-Hajajreh and Yael Admi, a Palestinian woman and an Israeli woman, respectively, led this march in Rome last March. When women of different cultures, communities and faiths lead the way to show how the transformative power of just-love, just-peace and just-community build peace in an unjust world, we take heart. In the face of war, oppression and injustice, we join hands in solidarity. We just-walk together, hand in hand—united as a community because we need each other, probably more now than ever.

For some, this may also call to mind the protest and resilience shown in the Dandi March (or Salt March), led by Mahatma Gandhi in India in 1930. Fragile bodies took on powers of empire and overthrew them.

Being witnesses at such a time as this means refusing to separate prayer from public life, worship from neighbor-love or grace from justice. It means listening for the cries hidden beneath headlines and policies. It means asking how our congregations can become places where the wounded are believed, the stranger is welcomed, children are protected, elders are honored, creation is cherished and enemies are no longer imagined as less than human.

Micah gives us no escape into an abstract religion, no option to check out in favor of an artificial intelligence religion. Justice must be real, engaged and embodied. Indeed, our maker mandates all mortals with this demand: Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God. In other words, each one of us, in every place and space in which we find ourselves, is called to embody justice, expansive kindness and the walk of engaged solidarity.

Jesus sends us as witnesses, not because we have mastered the gospel but because the gospel has claimed us. At such a time as this, may our lives tell the truth of what we have seen and heard: that God's grace is wider than fear, God's justice is stronger than empire and God's peace is already walking among us.

EVANGELINE ANDERSON-RAJKUMAR
Evangeline Anderson-Rajkumar is a feminist theologian focused on issues of body theology. After 22 years of experience of teaching in four seminaries, she is now an ELCA rostered minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, serving two congregations in Corydon, Ind.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Peace Garage Sale: September 10th - 12th (Page 6)

Outdoor Service and Potluck: September 13th (Page 4)

Articles Due for October Tidings: September 17th

Loads of Love: September 19th (Page 8)

Women's Bible Study (Date Change!): September 26th (Page 7)

Annual Cookie Walk and Craft Event: November 17th & 18th (Page 7)

Noisy Bucket Offering: September 27th

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

In our current phase of the call process, the Bishop's Office is working to identify pastors who may be a good fit for Peace. When a pastor expresses openness to serving in our synod, Pastor Scott and Bishop Julie review their ministry profile and, when appropriate, meet with them to learn more about their ministry and share possibilities. If a candidate is open to further conversation, that information is shared with the Call Committee chair so we can begin the next steps of discernment. While this phase may feel quiet at times, there is important work happening behind the scenes. We ask for your continued prayers as we trust God's timing.

Peace Picnic Potluck in the Parking Lot

Our final outdoor worship service for 2026 will be on Sunday, September 13th!

The Church Council will be hosting a luncheon picnic. Meats with condiments, etc., and water/coffee will be provided. All you need to do is bring a dish for the potluck, your favorite lawn chair and something to drink (if you prefer something other than water/coffee.). This is a great time to "wrap up" summer with good food, good people and great fellowship. Join us!

Men's Night Out

We will meet for dinner and fellowship on **Tuesday, September 22nd at 6:00 pm**

Ladies Luncheon

Wednesday, September 16th
11:30 am at Evelyn Bay

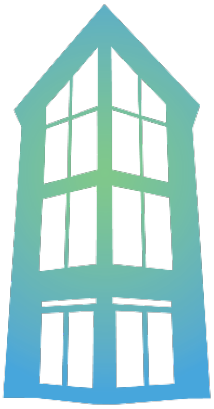
The Pregnancy Center

The center has a specific need for size 4 and 5 diapers. Please place your donation in the basket in the Gathering Area.

Men's Breakfast

We will meet at the Eaton Place for breakfast and fellowship on… **Thursday, September 10th at 8:30am.**
Hope to see you there!

Worship Opportunities



As the summer comes to an end and things start up for the fall, beginning with the outdoor worship service on September 13th and our Fall Kickoff Picnic, **please take time to consider all of the worship opportunities available to you at Peace Lutheran Church.**

Each week it takes dozens of God's people working together to make worship happen. **You can be part of the ministry of worship** as an acolyte, the Altar Guild, Singing in the Choir, Providing flowers for the Altar, Lay Ministry, Lecturing, the Sound Booth, providing special music during the worship service, ushering, or maybe a worship assistant. All members are welcome to assist in the position(s) they choose to volunteer for. **Interested but unsure of procedures?….training is available for all ministries.** Please let the office know where your talents lay and we will point you in the right direction.

Other opportunities for you at Peace is to be a part of one of our many teams. Maybe you would like to be part of the church council. Our teams include: The Audit Team, The Caring Team, The Communications Team, The Community Action Team, The Executive Team, The Giving/Finance/Stewardship Team, The Growing in Faith Team, The Mutual Ministry Team, The Nominating Team, The Property Team, The Technology and Personnel Team, and the Worship and Music Team. Maybe you would like to help teach Sunday school classes for either the children or an Adult class. Please let the office know and you will be pointed in the correct direction.

Helping Hands Ministry

For the month of April, we are collecting **Tuna**. A basket has been placed in the gathering area in front of the Helping Hands Ministry bulletin board to place donations. Thank you for your support!

WANTED: ITEMS FOR PEACE GARAGE SALE

When:

Thursday	**September 10th**
Friday	**September 11th**
Saturday	**September 12th**

Please NO clothing.

Donated items can be priced in advance if desired, but not necessary.
10% of the proceeds will be tithed.

See Karen Jorgensen or Lorene Crigier for questions.

We welcome anyone who is able to volunteer their time to help set up or help the days of the sale.

Thank you in advance for donations of items and/or time!!

Women's Bible Study

All women are invited to attend our Bible study starting in September.

We meet monthly on the second Saturday at 10:30 am. Due to Scheduling conflicts, **our first session will be on September 26th.**

We are currently studying the Women of the Old Testament. The subject of the September meeting will be Esther.

Our meetings are informal with casual discussions. We usually meet for one hour. Please sign up on the posting on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space.

Contact Sandy Hassen with any questions.

ANNUAL COOKIE WALK AND CRAFT EVENT

The PLC 2026 annual cookie walk/craft show event will be held on Friday, November 13 and Saturday, November 14. In addition to the cookies and PLC craft items, there may be a few vendors invited to set up a booth. We would greatly appreciate any craft items that you as crafters would like to donate for the PLC craft show! In addition, each year we try to have several items available as drawing prizes. In 2025, the sale of tickets for the drawing raised nearly $300. We would welcome any items you may have that we could use for the drawings. Just let one of the committee members know. **Sign-up sheets for baked items and volunteer workers will be available in the Gathering Area the first Sunday in October.**

Committee members: Bev Cahill, Bev DeFord, Susie Moore, Sharron Pridgeon

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Follow Peace Lutheran Now on Instagram!

Find and follow using this QR code or search @peacecharlottemi.

Loads of Love

Loads of Love is coming up on September 19, 2026. We hope that you will consider signing up to help with this great project. It only takes about 3 hours to help the members of our community. By paying for their laundry it brings a smile to their face.

This is such a great ministry that helps people in our community that other churches and organizations have joined by hosting their own Loads of Love event. With their partnerships, Loads of Love happens every month!

It is a very simple job on our part. We greet the people as they come in and tell them we are from Peace Lutheran and we would like to pay for their laundry today. How hard is that?

Staples

When buying ink from Staples for you or your family please consider using Peace's phone number when checking out. Your purchase of ink can apply to Peace's Rewards program. The office uses the rewards dollars for supplies for our church.

Did you know that we recycle pull tabs here at Peace?

Pull tabs are taken to the Ronald McDonald House in Lansing

They turn these tabs in to cash to help support the House. The House provides care, comfort, and a free place to stay for families to heal together while their child receives medical treatment.

This is a simple way to help support the House, just pull those tabs off the cans and **place them in the container at church** and Dar will see that they get over to Ronald McDonald House.

Backpacks for Area Youth Update

Thank you to all who donated time and money to make this project a huge success! This year, we were able to fill 105 backpacks with the basic supplies every student needs.

The schools are very excited to receive these backpacks. The teachers and principals make sure these go to students that really need them. The schools ask that we share just how much they appreciate them. They keep some in their emergency closets so when they get displaced students, they can give them a backpack, so that they have something to call their own. It also makes the student know that someone cares.

Besides your generous donations, we were able to use a Thrivent Action Grant to help with backpacks and supplies.

We also put together supply boxes for the teachers to draw from as needed. These boxes contained tissues, wipes, dry erase markers, crayons, and other every day supplies. This was also done with a Thrivent Action Grant to Help Teachers.

We are ready to start next year's project by watching for backpacks and supplies to go on clearance right after school starts. This helps stretch our dollars!

Thank you everyone for your support of this great community outreach project!

Louise and Jim
Community Action Team

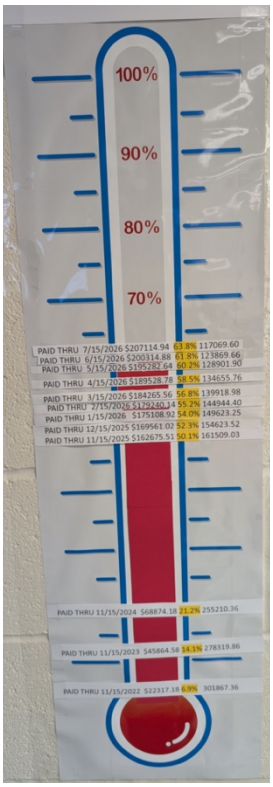
VISITATION MINISTRY

The Caring Team is asking for help with a Visitation Ministry in reaching out to our members. We need volunteers to visit people in the congregation that have difficulty in getting to church on a regular basis. Visitors would go out in teams of two and would be making one visit per month. Each month you would be visiting a different member, and your visiting partner might change. You will receive a schedule of who and what week to visit and who is your visiting partner. Your responsibility is to get with your visiting partner and contacting the member to set up a visitation time. Then to go and enjoy learning more about one of our members.

After making a visit you will realize that you are the one that have been blessed. This is a ministry where you receive more than you give.

Please contact Char Ehlers if you are interested in this ministry.

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS??



This thermometer is a visual look at the church mortgage. The original mortgage was in January of 2002 for the construction of the new sanctuary, pastor's office, narthex and bathrooms as an addition to the existing building. The mortgage was for $700,000. It took almost 20 years to pay the first half of the mortgage. In November of 2021 the remaining balance of $324,000 was refinanced for 15 years with a 5 year balloon payment due in November of 2026.

The balance as of July 2026 is $117,000. This huge reduction in the balance was accomplished by several large one-time payments on the principal along with some members of the congregation also making monthly or annual donations toward the principal. With the current vacancy of a pastor, it was decided to use some of the funds which would be used to pay a pastor to help reduce the balance even further. The mortgage will be reviewed with the bank in the second half of 2026 for any changes needed for the remaining 10 years on the mortgage. The more we can reduce the balance before this review the better position we will be in.

Worship Ministry
September 2026

Date	Sunday 9/6	Sunday 9/13 *Outdoor Worship Service*	Sunday 9/20	Sunday 9/27
Altar Guild	Lorene Crigier	Lorene Crigier	Lorene Crigier	Lorene Crigier
Audio/ Visual	Scott and Connie Lumbert	Scott and Connie Lumbert	Scott and Connie Lumbert	Scott and Connie Lumbert
Choir Director/ Musician	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio
Fellowship	The Bradley's	**Outdoor worship with Potluck**	Dave and Shelly Gillahan	**Volunteer Needed**
Flowers	The Moore's	Bev Cahill	Beverly Leffler	Scott and Connie Lumbert
Lector	Susie Moore	**Volunteer Needed**	Carissa Hueter	**Volunteer Needed**
Pastor	Pastor Jim Couser	Pastor Dave Augenstein	Pastor Frank Rothfus	Pastor Dave Augenstein
Ushers	**Volunteer Needed**	**Volunteer Needed**	**Volunteer Needed**	**Volunteer Needed**
Worship Assistant	Bruce Hassen	Matt Lincoln	Matt Lincoln	Matt Lincoln

Church Calendar – September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00 pm CAT Team Meeting	2 11:30 am Caring Team Meeting 6:00 pm AA Meeting	3	4	5
6 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering Pastor Jim Couser	7 Labor Day	8 Garage Sale Set Up 7:00 pm Council Meeting	9 10:00 am Worship and Music Team Meeting Garage Sale Set Up 6:00 pm AA Meeting	10 8:30 am Men's Breakfast 11:00 am Golf Outing Garage Sale 7:00 pm Property Team Meeting	11 Garage Sale	12 Garage Sale
13 9:30 am Outdoor Worship Service Potluck to follow Pastor Dave Augenstein	14 4-9:00 pm CROP Walk Fundraiser @ AppleBees	15 7:00 pm GFS Team Meeting	16 11:30 am Ladies Luncheon @ Evelyn Bay 6:00 pm AA Meeting	17 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal Newsletter articles due	18	19 8:00 am Loads of Love
20 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering Pastor Frank Rothfus	21	22 5-8 CROP Walk Fundraiser @Culvers 6:00 pm Men's Night Out	23 6:00 pm AA Meeting	24 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	25	26 10:30 am Women's Bible Study
27 Noisy Bucket 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering 10:45 am Sunday School Pastor Dave Augenstein	28	29	30 6:00 pm AA Meeting			

Please feel free to submit articles or pictures for the Tidings to the editor, Kristin Shannon gore.kristin88@gmail.com

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Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and love your neighbor as yourself.

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