



April 2026 Messenger of PEACE

Find us at:
400 Franklin St. SW
Hutchinson, MN

Website: plchutch.org
Email: office@plchutch.org
Ph: 320-587-3031



*Dear Family and Friends of Peace Lutheran,
Hear the word of the Lord,
Then he said to his disciples, "the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; v.38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matthew 9:37-38*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, the truth is that today in our Lutheran Church Missouri Synod we are still faced with the same challenge of supply and demand. In our Synod 20% of our congregations are without pastors. 1000 churches need a pastor. The struggle we have is that senior pastors are aging out and young pastors are not available to fill the need to pastor these churches. The current average age of Senior pastors is between 55-58 years. I am 62. Pastor Miller is 81. This shortage of workers is not only in our Synod but throughout all Lutheran churches and other church bodies as well.

The reason for the shortage of pastors perhaps is threefold: The number of trained young men available is significantly lower than the need. Churches in this current economy cannot afford a full time pastor. There is a lack of confidence from current pastoral leadership that alternate methods of training up pastors will not bring quality pastors in our churches.

Despite this great need that requires our prayer and efforts right now even at Peace Lutheran, the Lord of the Harvest Jesus is still in control and reigning over his church. He tells us to pray earnestly for the Lord of the Harvest to send out workers and to put some legs on our prayers.

PEACE WORSHIP TIMES

SATURDAY

6:30 pm Worship in Sanctuary

SUNDAY

8:30 - Worship in Sanctuary

10:30 Worship in Peace Center

ONLINE WORSHIP Livestream

plchutch.org Watch Live@8:30am

FacebookLive

www.facebook.com/HutchinsonMN

YouTube

www.youtube.com/PeaceHutchinsonmn



CABLE TV - HCVN

chan 10 - Nuvera, chan 8 - Mediacom

Sun. 7 pm & 10 pm

Wed 5 pm, Thurs 10 am



The Good News is that the answer to our prayers are sitting in our pews. They are the Gen Z (born 1997-2012) young men who are coming back into our churches in significant numbers. Pastor Miller and myself ask for your help to encourage our middle school, high school students, and other gifted young men to prayerfully consider pastoral ministry and church work. The need is also great in all vocations including teachers, DCE's, Church Music Directors, Missionaries, and more.

My question and challenge for you and me is this. Who will you invite, mentor, encourage, pray for to be our next pastors and church workers at Peace Lutheran? Our young people are our future. They are our NOW!

Thank you for your prayers and attention to this most important matter.

*God Bless you and your family,
Pastor Kurt Weber*

Associate Pastor's Corner

Welcome to my corner of ministry at Peace Lutheran. A good deal of my time is taken by visiting shut-in members and provide Holy Communion for them. Paul Otte splits that ministry with me. We visit home bound members and those in multiple living situations too. Paul and I encourage you to keep these folks in your prayers too.

During April our 6th – 7th Grade confirmation class completes its sessions for the school year. We will have covered the 10 commandments and the Apostle's Creed. It worked out this year that our Lenten theme focused on the Apostle's Creed. So, each Wednesday the topic/emphasis was a particular phrase of the Creed. For me the highlight was the 7th and 8th grade skits which they performed at the 4:30 pm Lenten services. AND – parents, thank you for having really good students. Students will be working on their Statement of Faith for April. This is a preparation exercise as they enter the 8th Grade confirmation class next school year.

WHAT'S NEW – Mission Trip to Copper Center, AK. At this point we have a team of 10 from Peace. We will conduct a full Vacation Bible School for the community and we will feed the children a lunch to begin each day. We will partner with a congregation in Michigan which has been providing this for about 10 years. This is a self-funded mission trip. Participants can use your help. THANK YOU. AND please keep us your prayers. Our team meets about every 2 weeks to prepare. A GENERAL INFORMATION MEETING WAS HELD March 22. If you would like to have that information just call or email the office and we can send the presentation to you.

GRIEF SHARE – The sessions will finish their 13-week cycle on April 6. These sessions have been very well received by our members and the community. We will begin another cycle of 13 weeks next Fall. Thank you for your support.

In June we will begin to have a Communion service at Harmony River – 3rd Friday at 10 AM of each month. Family members are welcome to attend.

Thank you folks for your interest, your prayers and your encouragement.

God's Blessings,
Pastor Jeff Miller

Pipe Organ Repairs

Dobson Organ Company will be here this week to reinstall the pipes from the Swell organ (the top keyboard). They have cleaned the chamber and pipes and repaired the pipes that had tuning issues. This is routine maintenance for our organ, which will be 30 years old next year. This work is Phase One of Three phases. We hope to complete Phase Two in 2027.

We are grateful for all of the elders and trustees who have assisted us. Side Note: Former music director

Jim Streufert has been here working with Dobson.

We have enjoyed reconnecting with him and we look forward to welcoming him and his wife back on July 1st for a 40th anniversary celebration of their first concert at Peace.

April Ushers

Saturday 6:30pm

April 4: No Service

11: Brian Baysinger &
Patty Thul

18: Dick & Corinne Higgins

25: Rhonda Tronick & Kathy
Hochsprung

8:30am

Team 1 & 2

Glen Witte

Doug Witte

Brian Koehler

Rusten Huls

Kevin Buss

Mike Mckimm

Allen Broll

April 19

8:30 Brenda Petersen & Marion Fenske

10:30 Anita Miller

April 26

8:30 Dale & Shari Ziemann

10:30 Ron & Barb Kirchoff



Saturday 6:30pm

April 4: No Service

11: Corinne Higgins

18: Joann Keilen

25: Lee Ulbjerg

April Readers

Sunday 8:30am

April 5: Easter Services-----

12: Lynn Brown

19: Nona Anderson

26: Gwen Wichman

10:30am

Bennet Oberg

Sadie Jenkins

Kim Kruse

April Greeters

April 5

8:30 Norb & Dee Hemmann

10:30 No Greeters

April 12

8:30 Jeff & Melissa Weckworth

10:30 Barb Marquart & Diane

Peterson

OFFICIAL ACTS



BAPTISM

- March 7th - Reece Scott Jurgensen, son of Claudia Hovendick and Collin Jurgensen**
March 11th - Camden Lee Reinke, son of Casey and Trevor Reinke
March 22nd - Jayce Owen Sorensen, son of Cheyenne and Taran Sorensen
March 28th - Kinsley Renee Sheerin, daughter of Kayla and Andrew Sheerin

FUNERALS

March 21st- Melinda Mae (Nelson) Mikolichek

Memorials

Transfers

- Sherry McCormick transferred to Trinity Waconia, MN**
Cole Rahne transferred to Trinity Cedar Rapids, IA
LeeAnn Becker received from Immanuel Lutheran Litchfield, MN



Thank You!

for feeding the High Schoolers on March 26th
Thank you for all that made brownies

Thank you for all that served
the sloppy joes and chips.

Thank you for helping with
our church community involvement.



Common Cup Ministries

From Jen Wicklund: Common Cup Program Director/Volunteer Coordinator

A heartfelt thank you to Peace Lutheran for your incredible donation of 500+ cans of soup from your Souper Bowl soup mission. We were able to include one can of soup in each of the 395 Weekend Food bags for families in Hutchinson and Glencoe. This generous support resulted in a \$553 savings for CCM on the menu planned for the week of March 30, 2026. Many thanks to the members of Peace for your generosity—together we can make a difference!

YOU'RE INVITED to the Common Cup Annual Meeting; April 20 at 12 noon at Hunters Ridge 850 School Rd SW, Hutchinson, MN. Come hear how area churches are working together to support and serve the community we share.

Occasional Sale

March 5th occasional sale proceeds were \$3,547.50. Half of the proceeds, \$1,773.76 went to debt reduction, which will be matched by the Congregational fund. The Closet (McLeod County) received \$886.87, one quarter of sales, and the same amount went toward utilities and building maintenance on our campus. We extend our sincere thanks to our dedicated volunteers, generous donors, and shoppers.

The next drop-off dates are Monday, March 30th and April 27th from 4:00-6:00 P.M. Volunteers sort and price donations on Monday and Thursday mornings from 10:00-noon. Items can be dropped off then too. Please ring the doorbell, and volunteers will receive your donations. We accept clothing, shoes, purses, jewelry, home décor, especially spring and summer items, towels, bedding, small rugs, kitchen items, lamps, pictures, end tables, crafts, yarn, toys, books, puzzles, DVD's, CD's, vinyl records, sport trading cards, and other miscellaneous items. Please contact Lynn at 320-582-0193 or Gayle at 320-583-2487 if you have questions about donations.

The next occasional sale is April 9th from 10:00 a.m-6:00 p.m. April specials are 50% off china sets, children's books buy 1 get 1 free equal or less value, \$1 jewelry only, buy 1 get 1 free. A quarter of April proceeds will benefit Crow River Habitat for Humanity.

Oh how I LOVE the month of April! We begin with Easter and all good things follow. Our days are officially filled with more sunshine, we're seeing foliage and blooms starting to peak out, and some of us (me) are pulling out the flip flops. In Prince of Peace news, each of our neighborhoods competed in our Change Wars to see who could raise the most money for the Bingo Store and we received a total of \$134.57 in February! We'll be celebrating our 2025 volunteers this month with our Volunteer Appreciation Tea event! Last year we had a total of 69 volunteers who collectively put in 1,699 hours to help keep our mission strong! A reminder that if you would be interested in volunteering, please reach out to Lisa Hoff by email residentservice95@gmail.com or by calling #320.234.7588. Lastly, I want to say thank you to all of you who make in-kind donations, monetary donations, and to our volunteers. We truly are blessed with the best!

Blessings,
Destini Doring
Executive Director
Prince of Peace Retirement Living
#320.234.7588
www.poprl.org



Peace Lutheran Church

END OF YEAR SCHEDULE

APRIL 8	REGULAR CLASS DAY 🕒 Noon - Regular Time
APRIL 15	REGULAR CLASS DAY 🕒 6:00 PM - Pictures & First Rehearsal
APRIL 22	REGULAR CLASS DAY 🕒 6:00 PM - Statement of Faith Night (8 th Grade) & Second Rehearsal
APRIL 29	LAST DAY OF CLASS TOGETHER! 🕒 6:00 PM - 6th, 7th & 8th Grade <i>Confirmation Celebration!</i> 📍 Peace Center
MAY 3	RITE OF CONFIRMATION SERVICE 🕒 10:30 AM <i>All are welcome!</i>

Thank You
to all our
HELPERS, TEACHERS, CHEFS & SMILE MAKERS!

Your
LOVE • SERVICE • FAITHFUL HEARTS
are a
Blessing
to our children, our families, and our church!

THANK YOU FOR SHAPING LIVES WITH
GOD'S LOVE † KINDNESS † JOY!
We are deeply grateful for each of you!

With heartfelt thanks from the children, families, and congregation of
PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
"Growing in Faith, Learning in Love, Serving with Joy!"

JESUS & THE FISHER OF MEN

Catch the Faith!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
June 8 through June 12, 2026

✦ PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH ✦

Sunday School Celebration

Join Us for the Last Day of Sunday School! ★★

Sunday, April 26th

🕒 **9:40 AM**

📍 **Peace Center**

Come celebrate a wonderful year of learning in faith!

- ♥ Fun Games
- ♥ Continental Breakfast
- ♥ Teacher Recognition

♥ All Are Welcome! ♥
Bring your family and friends as we celebrate together!

Bloodmobile

TUESDAY, April 14th
TUESDAY, May 12th

12 pm - 6 pm - Peace Center

• Appointments only can continue to be made on line at redcrossblood.org or by calling Shirley W. at 587-5064. Thank you for continuing to support



Bloodmobile is on Tuesday April 14 from noon to 6. New donors are always welcome. If you have never given before, we have been told that our drive is a great place to begin. Love to see you there.

Sunday morning coffee and snacks continues to be a great place to share our care by supporting the taxi service. We have had some wonderful homemade items from the Brolls. If you would like to share, just let Shirley know. I don't get out to eat often but this week I noticed that coffee in the restaurant I dined in was \$3.95. Wow! Just a reminder that the cost continues to rise and your generosity is appreciated. Thank you!

Blood pressures are offered on the second Sunday every month in the Parish Health office. Thank you to the members for continuing to share their talents by making prayer shawls. It is such a great way to let people know we care.

**Peace Lutheran
Women in Mission**



It is about 2 months until the MN South District convention in Mankato in June. Nona Anderson from our congregation is the Convention Chairman. Please consider helping Nona by volunteering. See the following information below.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! The Minnesota South District LWML is seeking volunteers to help at the 31st District Convention on June 18-20, 2026. The Crow River Conference will be the Host Committee for the convention. Around 30 volunteers are needed. Please consider attending the convention and being a volunteer. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE AN LWML MEMBER TO ATTEND THE CONVENTION.** If interested, contact Nona Anderson (583-6745).

Registration for the District convention is open as of March 1st. It is exclusively ON-LINE and open until May 1. Late registration fee is \$45. Information on registration for the LWML District Convention in June will be in the Spring issue of the WOM and on the website: mnslwml.org. Check out the LWML bulletin board. There is a lot of new information posted there.

SENIOR DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM

~ COURSE DATES & TIMES ~

April 16th 1pm-5pm
May 28th 1pm-5pm



Room 207-209 Education Building

The next 55+Drivers Discount Class at Peace Lutheran Church is scheduled for Thursday, January 22nd 1:00 – 5:00pm in rooms 208-210. The classes will be held at the same time and in the same rooms. Registration is still through Precision Driving Center of Minnesota. You may call 320-308-1400 or 888-234-1294 or register online at www.DriverDiscountProgram.com. Hope to see you there!



Quilting will be on April 15 from 1-3. We have another helper sewing pieces at home and this is a big help. Thank you.

Layettes will be assembled in the church basement on April 29 at 3pm with the confirmation class. If any adults would like to help, please contact Shirley W. We still need items and there is a list on the bulletin board. We are always in need of Ivory soap and dark colored hand towels.

Pastor Kurt Weber 989-430-6585
 Pastor Jeff Miller 320-510-3674
 Church Office 320-587-3031

Prayer Chain: 320-587-6484
 Web Site: www.plchutch.org
 Email: office@plchutch.org

OFFICE HOURS
 Monday – Friday 9 am - 4 pm

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Easter Sunday 5						
6:30 Worship/Communion 8:30 Worship/Communion 10:30 Worship/Communion	4-5:30 Grief Share	6:45-7:45 Men's Bible 10:00 Women's Bible St 3:00 Parables Bible St 6:00 Women Talk 6:30 Elders	10:00 Body & Soul 11:45 Bible Study & Lunch 3:20 Tiger Tweens 2:45 Confirmation 4:30 Youth Bible Study	Mouduay Thursday 2 11:30 Worship/Communion 6:30 Worship/Communion First Communion	Good Friday 3 11:30 Worship 6:30 Worship Office closed at 11:30	No Services
7:30-10 Easter Brunch				Occasional Sale 10-6		6:45-7:45 Men's Bible 6:30 Worship
8:30 Worship Blood Pressure Checks 9:40 Bible Study 9:40 Sunday School 10:30 Worship/Communion		6:45-7:45 Men's Bible 10:00 Women's Bible St 12-6 Blood Mobile 3:00 Parables Bible St 6:30 Promise Keepers 6:30 Council	10:00 Body & Soul 11:45 Giving Foundation 1:00 Quilting 3:20 Tiger Tweens 2:45 Confirmation 4:30 Youth Bible Study 5:30 Handbells 6:00 Confirmation Pictures 6:30 Handbells	6:30 Trustees 1-5 Drivers Training		6:45-7:45 Men's Bible 6:30 Worship/Communion
8:30 Worship/Communion 9:40 Bible Study 9:40 Sunday School 10:30 Worship		6:45-7:45 Men's Bible 7:30 MS Release Time 10:00 Women's Bible St 3:00 Parables Bible St 6:30 Promise Keepers	10:00 Body & Soul 11:45 Bible Study & Lunch 3:20 Tiger Tweens 2:45 Confirmation 4:30 Youth Bible Study 5:30 Adult Choir 6:00 Confirmation Statement of Faith & Questioning 6:00 HAY Unity Gathering 6:30 Handbells	23	10:30 Fold Day Messenger	6:45-7:45 Men's Bible 6:30 Worship
8:30 Worship 9:40 Sunday School Party 10:30 Worship/Communion 2pm- Handbells in Dassel		6:45-7:45 Men's Bible 10:00 Women's Bible St 3:00 Parables Bible St 6:30 Promise Keepers	10:00 Body & Soul 11:45 Bible Study & Lunch 3:20 Tiger Tweens Last Day 2:45 Confirmation Last Day 4:30 Youth Bible Study 5:30 Adult Choir 6:30 Handbells	30		



PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Meeting

February 10, 2026

Present: Melissa Weckwerth, Dean Kirchoff, Justin Evenson, Kathy Hochsprung, Gary Havemeier, Lynn Brown, Sara Peterson, Pastor Weber, Sue Kroyer

AGENDA

Welcome

Opening Prayer and Devotion by Pastor Weber, Esther 4:12-17

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Dean to approve the January 13, 2026, Council minutes as presented, seconded by Justin. Motion carried.

1. Pastor's Report

Pastor reported that Guiding Light continues to recruit students and will be opening for toddlers. The Pastors have been doing weekly chapel time with the current two students. Paul Otte and Pastor Jeff continue to visit our shut-ins. The Grief Share ministry is going well with new people joining each session. The next Men's Ministry Bible Breakfast is February 28th.. A new Men's Bible Study will start at 5pm on Wednesdays.

The Sunday morning Bible Study is now studying the Book of Acts. Long range goals include conducting a Congregational survey. Preliminary discussion was held regarding the possibility of securing a Vicar or to start the call process for an Associate Pastor in the future.

2. Administrator/Office Report

Sue reported that \$3,039.30 was the total sales at the recent Occasional Sale, with half, \$1,519.64 going to the debt fund which will also be matched by the Congregational Fund. One quarter of the sales, \$759.83 will be sent to Safe Avenues. The recent Sunday School Soup-Er Bowl Lunch raised \$322 for Common Cup and over 500 cans of soup have been collected so far.

The Sunday

School will continue collecting soup through the end of the month for Common Cup. Also, their January and February offerings will be donated to Common Cup. The Sunday School mission for the remainder of the school year will be Orphan Grain Train. The pie sale concludes this week and all proceeds will go towards the organ repair project. Reminder that the Annual Fish Fry is scheduled for March 13th. Sue also explained that since we added photo sessions in December and also in January, our directory completion has been pushed back a couple months.

3. Treasurer's Report

Justin reviewed the current P & L. He also explained the organ repair project and the funding plan

4. Elder's Report

The February Elder's meeting minutes were reviewed

5. Youth Programming Update

Elia reported that she is getting acquainted with the youth and parents and is planning to take a group to St. Cloud next week for laser tag.

Old Business

Annual meeting recap - it was felt that the meeting went well

Church directory update - addressed above

Guiding Light lease - Currently we have provided a Certificate of Occupancy for the daycare. An actual lease will be implemented January 1, 2027, when they will start paying a pro-rated rent as voted on at the Annual Congregation Meeting.

LCEF contact and potential date for visit - This has been set for April 15th during the Wednesday Bible Study and again on April 26th during the Sunday Bible Study.

End of the debt - discussion was held regarding a celebration for retiring the debt, which hopefully will be at the end of the year

New Business

Goal setting and path for when debt is done - Next large project is the Peace Center - replacing the chairs, the flooring and the roof, which can all be accomplished in 2027.

Creation of Pastor's discretionary fund - This was presented and discussed. It was also pointed out that this is why Common Cup was started by the local Churches 20 years ago and that we continue to financially support them. This will be discussed further at the March meeting.

Website/Facebook - updates continue

At large Council vacancy - names were suggested, this will be addressed further at the March meeting

Closing Prayer by Pastor Weber

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm

Next meeting will be March 10, 2026, at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Borka

Church Council Secretary

Melissa Weckwerth

Church Council President

In Kim's absence, the minutes were recorded by Sue Kroyer, Administrator



April 2026 Prayer Calendar



1. Pray for our April showers to bring the May crops
2. Maundy Thursday: Love one another as I have loved you
3. Good Friday, Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing
4. Pray for a resolution to the Mexican conflict
5. Easter Sunday Alleluia Christ is Risen
6. Pray for National World Health Day that ALL may have health care
7. Pray for our young men and women serving our country
8. Pray for a resolution to the Middle East conflict
9. Pray for continued success with The Occasional Sale
10. Sibling day, pray for our brothers and sisters, biological or not
- 11, National Pet Day. Pray that our pets are loved and cared for
- 12, Pray for our Grief Share Group that they find comfort
- 13, Pray for the time to listen when it is needed
14. Garden Day, pray that we care for our gardens to help feed the hungry
15. Pray for those dealing with demons we don't understand
16. Pray for our staff as summer activities gear up
17. Pray for Our Guiding Light daycare to guide our children graciously
18. Pray for peace and understanding of those with different opinions
19. Pray for the growth of our music ministry
20. Pray for our special needs residence that they are always included
21. Give thanks for all that you have
22. Earth Day: Pray that all will take care of our world
23. Pray for those that gave their all
24. Arbor Day: plant a tree or bush in remembrance of a loved one
25. Pray for our Harmony River residence for peace and comfort
26. Pray for our congregation to understand the new decisions to be made
27. Give thanks for the dedication and special relationship of our pastors
28. Pray for the safety of our children as the weather is getting warmer
29. Pray for our confirmands last day of class to continue their learning
30. Remember everyday is a gift, pray, praise, and give thanks

Peace Lutheran Church
400 Franklin Street SW
Hutchinson, MN 55350-2493

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Hutchinson, MN 55350
PERMIT NO. 8

EASTER BRUNCH

— Peace Lutheran Church —

"He is not here; He has risen!" — Luke 24:6



You are joyfully invited to join us
— **for Easter Brunch** —

Featuring a **Waffle Bar** with all the fixings
and a selection of assorted pastries

Sunday, April 5th
7:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Location:
The Peace Center
Peace Lutheran Church
400 Franklin Street SW

plchutch.org • 320-587-3031