

LET JUSTICE AND PEACE FLOW



St. Francis ~ Creation Sunday
October 1, 2023

Peace Lutheran Church



West Seattle, Washington

Francis was the son of a wealthy cloth merchant. In a public confrontation with his father, he renounced his wealth and future inheritance and devoted himself to serving the poor. Francis described this act as being “wedded to Lady Poverty.” St. Francis is also deeply remembered for his relationship with non-human creatures in the natural world. In many ecumenical circles, the Feast of St. Francis also marks the end of an international Season of Creation. As we mark St. Francis Sunday this year, we are particularly mindful of the impact climate breakdown is having on the communities of color and places where the world’s poorest citizens live.

*Each week we celebrate Holy Communion.
Christ, our Host, meets us in this meal of grace and offers himself fully,
body and blood, in the bread and wine.
Receiving him, we become what we have partaken: the body of Christ for the world.
All are invited and welcome to come to the Table.*

+ GATHERING +

P – *Presider* C – *Congregation* L – *Lector* A – *Assisting Minister*
ELW – *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal* W&P = *Worship & Praise Songbook*

PRELUDE

Touch the Earth Lightly

Peace Ringers

WELCOME

+ *The Singing Bowl Calls Us to Worship* +

PROCESSION OF CREATION BANNER

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *At the font*

Our confession today is framed by words from Laudato Si', the circular letter from Pope Francis which invites all people into renewed care for our common home.

P In the name of the Triune + God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Guide.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Silence is observed.

P In his beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her.

C **We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air, and in all forms of life.**

P The Earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she “groans in travail.”

C **We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth; that our very bodies are made up of her elements: we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters. Turn us from violent and self-serving ways. Give us the will to treat our sister with respect, care, and gratitude. Create in us new and clean hearts!**

HYMN OF CONFESSION

Holy One, In You Alone

Ray Makeever



We do not call this world our own, yet we will make this earth our



home; Ho - ly One, in you a - lone.



1 We do not claim this liv - ing word
 2 We do not claim this love of ours
 3 We do not claim these seeds we sow
 4 We do not claim our prayers for change



that we have heard is ours a - lone to give:
 can tame the pow'rs that lead our world to sin:
 will sprout and grow from our own hope - ful hands:
 can re - ar - range this world by our own will:



We on - ly know we have a
 We on - ly know we walk the
 We on - ly know we are the
 We on - ly know the ris - en



heart in which it lives.
 road where Christ has been.
 ground on which it lands.
 Christ is with us still.

ABSOLUTION

P Sisters and Brothers, God hears our confession and offers us a way forward. In baptism we are grounded in grace, and equipped to be the Earthkeepers and justice makers God has intended from the beginning.

C **Creator, teach us to love Earth as our home and restore us to our calling as peacemakers, servants, and keepers. Lord, teach us to care! Amen.**



We do not call this world our own, yet we will make this earth our



home; Ho - ly One, in you a - lone.

GREETING

P The abounding grace of Jesus Christ, the steadfast love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

KYRIE ELW page 184

Refrain

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the

u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you

this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Benevolent, merciful God: when we are empty, fill us; when we are weak in faith, strengthen us; when we are cold in love, warm us; that with fervor we may love our Earth home and serve our neighbors for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24

Nancy Hauger

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the Lord would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The Lord demands justice and righteousness in the community.

Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon.

²³Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

L Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146 *Read responsively*

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³Do not put your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.

⁴When they breathe their last, they return to earth,

and in that day their thoughts perish.

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,

whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶who made heaven and earth, the seas and all that is in them;

who keeps promises forever;

⁷who gives justice for those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸The LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD cares for the stranger;

the LORD sustains the orphan and the widow,

but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion,

throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: *The Dream* by Wendell Berry

Caity Gerhardt

*I dream an inescapable dream
in which I take away from the country
the bridges and roads, the fences, the strung wires,
ourselves, all we have built and dug and hollowed out,
our flocks and herds, our droves of machines.*

*I restore then the wide-branching trees.
I see growing over the land and shading it
the great trunks and crowns of the first forest.
I am aware of the rattling of their branches,
the lichened channels of their bark, the saps
of the ground flowing upward to their darkness.*

*Like the afterimage of a light that only by not
looking can be seen, I glimpse the country as it was.
All its beings belong wholly to it. They flourish
in dying as in being born. It is the life of its deaths.*

*I must end, always, by replacing
our beginning there, ourselves and our blades,
the flowing in of history, putting back what I took away,
trying always with the same pain of foreknowledge
to build all that we have built, but destroy nothing.*

*My hands weakening, I feel on all sides blindness
growing in the land on its peering bulbous stalks.
I see that my mind is not good enough.
I see that I am eager to own the earth and to own men.*

*I find in my mouth a bitter taste of money,
a gaping syllable I can neither swallow nor spit out.
I see all that we have ruined in order to have, all
that was owned for a lifetime to be destroyed forever.*

Where are the sleeps that escape such dreams?

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Please rise in body or spirit to receive the gospel*

ELW page 188

Musical notation for the first line of the acclamation. The melody is in G major, 4/4 time. The lyrics are: Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

Musical notation for the second line of the acclamation. The melody continues from the first line. The lyrics are: words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Musical notation for the third line of the acclamation. The melody continues. The lyrics are: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Musical notation for the fourth line of the acclamation. The melody concludes with a double bar line. The lyrics are: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 6th Chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:25-33

²⁵ ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

P The gospel of our Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Nicole Klinemeier

♪ **REFRAIN**

All God's critters got a place in the choir

Some sing low, some sing higher

Some sing out loud on the telephone wire

And some just clap their hands, or paws or anything they got now

(1) Everybody here is a part of the plan

We all get to play in the great critter band

From the eagle in the sky to the whale in the sea

It’s one great symphony **Refrain**

SERMON

Pastor Erik Kindem

Time for Reflection

Choir sings verses. Congregation joins on refrain.

Refrain

Let jus - tice roll like a riv - er, and wash all op -
 pres - sion a - way. Come, O God, and take us,
 move and shake us; come now, and make us a - new,
 that we might live just - ly like you.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Chris Kindem

A Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of the neighbors.

Petitions are offered that end with:

A Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

When all petitions have been offered:

P Finally, let us pray that we may be instruments of your peace.

C **Where there is hatred, let us sow love;**

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is discord, union;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

**Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console
 to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.**

For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

+ MEAL +

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

Your financial gifts today support the ongoing ministry of our congregation, cooperative ventures of ELCA congregations throughout Western Washington, and Evangelical Lutheran ministries around the world. We invite you to give generously! You can place your gift in the offering plate, can mail in a check, or connect to our secure [Tithely Giving Page](#) via this QR CODE. Whatever size, your gift makes difference—thank you for your support!



OFFERTORY HYMN *Please rise as able*

We Are an Offering

ELW #692

We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. God of power, God of plenty,

C all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed.
Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts!

C **We lift them to the Lord!**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, O God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so with earth and sea and all their creatures, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW Page 190

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

On the night he shared his final meal with his friends, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

**C Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.**

P Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

**C This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.**

P Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his life given for us,
and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again
to share with us the everlasting feast.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine.

**C Breathe your Spirit over the whole Earth and make us your new creation—
the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.**

P And in the fullness of time, bring us with Francis and all your saints,
from every tribe and language, people and nation,
to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

**C For to you belongs all glory and honor, Almighty and Altender God,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Ecumenical*

P Gathering into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done on Earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

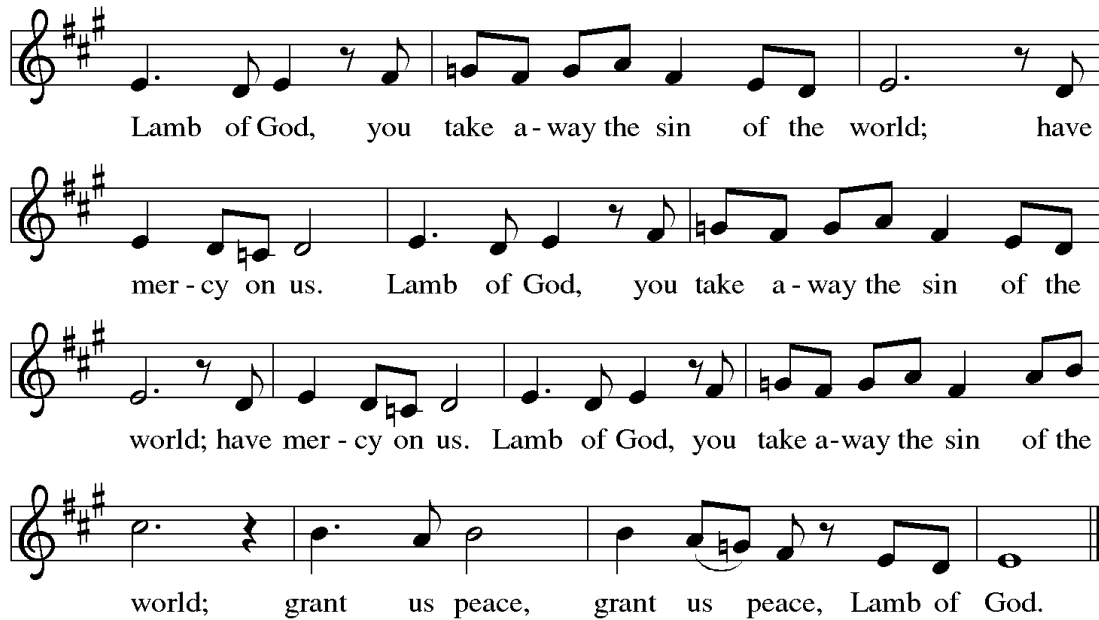
C Thanks be to God!

DISTRIBUTION

Today we commune at the rail. Please come forward and find a place, kneeling or standing. Gluten free bread is available. Both wine (dark) and grape juice (light) are available in the ceramic cups. Place your empty cup in the box at the end of the first pew on your way back to your seat. Children are welcome to receive when their parents believe they are ready, with the support of the pastor. Any who prefer a blessing may cross their hands over their chest as they come forward.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW Page 191



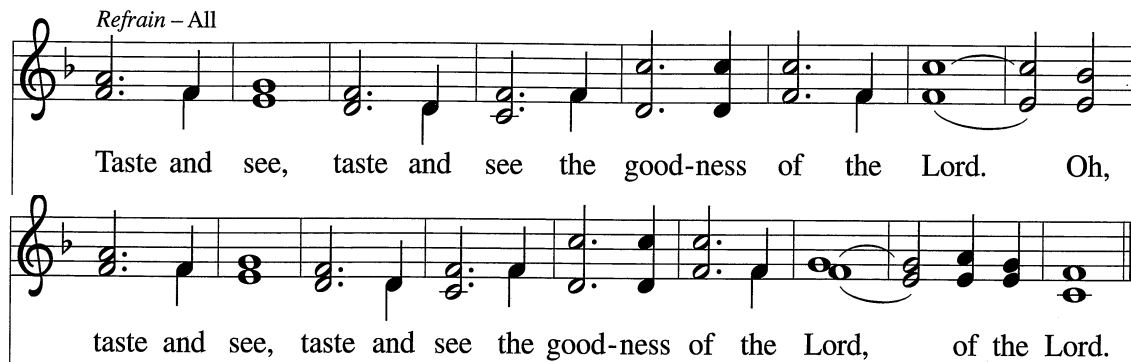
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION HYMN

Taste and See

ELW #493

Cantor sings verses. The congregation joins on each refrain.



Refrain - All
Taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord. Oh,
taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray. Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

C Amen.

+ SENDING +

BLESSING

P The holy Trinity, + one God, guide you in ways of faith, hope, and love; now and always.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

All Creatures Worship God Most High

ELW #835, 1-4, 6



1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
 2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
 3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor
 grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,
 throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in
 grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
 clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
 care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:
 fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

6. O sisters, brothers, take your part,
 and worship God with humble heart: Alleluia! Alleluia!
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
 And Holy Spirit, Three in One:
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

A Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Jon Lackey



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Church Office hours:

Tuesday-Thursday 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Pastor	Rev. Erik Kindem
Minister of Music	Jon Lackey
Peace Ringers	
Flutist	Chris Kindem
Assisting Minister	Chris Kindem
Acolyte	Naomi Kindem
Lector	Nancy Hauger, Caity Gerhardt
Children's Sermon	Nicole Klinemeier
Greeters	Helen Hundley, Marcia Olson
Ushers	Scott Sunde, David Kehle
Altar Care	Karl Coy
Communion Assistant	Kathleen Keyes, Barbara Hillier
Coffee Server	Creation Care Team
Counters	Kathleen Keyes, Jim Lukens
Production Techs	Alex Wren, Alan Jarvimaki

OFFERING INCOME

Our mission goal for 2023 anticipates receiving offering income of \$25,819 each month.

Offering Income received September 2023

09/03/23	\$ 2,025.00
09/10/23	\$ 4,176.00
09/17/23	\$ 454.00
09/24/23	\$ 2,879.00
Electronic	\$ 9,003.18
Total	\$18,534.18

Thank you for your gifts which support God's mission at Peace, in the larger community, and internationally through the ELCA

THIS WEEK'S ACT FOR CREATION

Leave your leaves! Tomorrow is World Habitat Day and according to the USDA, you can create habitat for overwintering pollinators, reduce greenhouse gasses *and* benefit your garden by leaving your leaves this Fall. The caterpillars need those leaves. The birds need the caterpillars. And we need them both! Fallen leaves also create a natural mulch, helping suppress weeds while fertilizing the soil as they break down. Mulch the leaves where they fall, chop them up with your mower, or move them where you can let them be. For more fall gardening tips, check out [The People's Garden | USDA](#). Join us October 14th to *Plant For Pollinators* as we create pollinator habitat right here at Peace. Email us at creationcare@peacelutheranseattle.org for info or to volunteer.

Pray for Creation: Bound together with all of creation, we ask God to incite us to pay attention to the cry of the Earth and all its creatures and then to respond with active compassion.

POLINATOR PLANTING AT PEACE 10/14 AT 9 AM

We're planting pesticide-free native plants to provide nutrition and safe habitat for pollinating insects and birds here at Peace on **Saturday, October 14th**. Want to help? Grab your gloves and tools and **be here by 9:00 a.m.** Questions? See a CCT member or email us at creationcare@peacelutheranseattle.org.

CARING FOR THE EARTH IS CARING FOR THE POOR

Today is St. Francis of Assisi Sunday, one of PLC's creation-themed services. We are all invited to participate in activities that relate to its emphasis that **environmental justice is social justice**. After worship, activities include enjoying plant-based treats, learning about climate issues, adding to the Creation Tree Banner, and donating and/or participating in The Crop Walk (see Marcia Olson or Nicole Klinemeier). We're also asking for non-perishable food items for The Welcome Table. These can be placed in front of the altar.

CROP WALK FOR HUNGER SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

beginning at Fautleroy UCC at noon. A fund-raiser sponsored by Church World Service; locally, by Fautleroy UCC and St John's Episcopal. 25% of funds raised will go to local food banks! CROP Hunger Walks take place across the world, raising funds and awareness to prevent hunger in the world. We will check in at Fautleroy Church (9140 SW California Ave, 98136) between 12-12:15, pick up signs to carry on our walk, take a group photo, and receive a blessing before we start walking through Lincoln Park. Some will walk from the church and others will drive to the park and walk from there. The distance you walk is up to you. Some will walk around 3 miles round trip. Sign up today!

LUNCH WITH NEW CONFIRMATION COHORT OCTOBER 8

On Sunday noon to 1pm - Those who are new to confirmation will have a lunch and orientation after worship.

OCTOBER 15, PASS THE HAT: MDC

(Maji Development Coalition) with guest Carolyn Kurtz, Executive Director. Carolyn writes: "Thank you for the support you have given to the people of Maji, in remote Ethiopia. MDC had a great year, full of successes, as supply chains and other hurdles got sorted out. We distributed 500 more solar lanterns to children in the poorest homes. They will have light to do their homework, but their whole families will also benefit from having light in the home at night. And our huge, ambitious project--bringing safe water to 2000 people in several rural communities--is operational as of September. This will save people from debilitating waterborne diseases, especially children and the elderly. The new gravity-fed system will also save the backs of women, who have had to hike steep trails to bring water back for family use. As Ato Markos, our program director said, "MDC is like a miracle to us!" In the coming year we will focus on the women's co-ops, and join with the local church to develop for a Women's Empowerment Center in Maji town.

PRAYER LIST

Please continue to remember the sick and home-bound of our congregation and others who have sought our prayers: Sick/Recovering: Jerry Andersen; Kathy Anderson; Connie Benjamin; Amelia Bliss; Barbara Bocker; Coco & Eric, Penelope Grace; Melanie Coulson; Heidi Coy; Vonda Cuchine; Marsha Davis; Ruth Eilers; Sean Fenton; Betty Fleck; Joe Flint; Marge Flint; Fonseca Family; Brian Ford; Caity Gerhardt; Dawn Gringorten; Sandy Goodale; Jaylin H; Julia H.; Doug Hauger; Howard Heiland; Jerry Heiland; Dave Hemme; Arlene Johnson; Donna Kehle; Ken Keyes; Kristofer Kindem; Noreen Lee; Dee Levy; Jan Madsen; Evelyn Martinez; Chloe McDonough; Eric, Erin, Finley McDonough; Pete McIntyre; Juanita McLemore; Andy McPherson; Kay McPherson; Erin McPherson; Steve Metzler; Bill Morrell; Michelle Pierce; Elaine Ross; Irma Runge; Jean Sides; JoAnne Spangler; Sean Stephens; Sarah Taylor; Conrad Tollefson; Judy Wiggins; Patti Wunder.

Homebound: Jim Baker; Lee Lamson; Dorothy Linnell

PROTOCOL FOR PRAYER LIST We will keep people on the prayer list for one month unless otherwise specified or unless you contact the Peace office to extend the time.

RECONCILING IN CHRIST AFFIRMATION OF WELCOME

Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness, in a world that can be filled with alienation and brokenness. In faithfulness to the Gospel and to our Lutheran heritage, we answer Christ's call to be agents of healing and safety, particularly for people who have been marginalized by our society.



As a Christian community, we invite all people to join us as we work to better understand the meaning of grace for our lives. We welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities into the life and mission of our congregation.

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