

SEASON AFTER PENTECOST



July 26, 2026

Peace Lutheran Church



West Seattle, Washington



As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

Our Guest Preacher/Presider today is Rev. Pam Russell.

We celebrate Christ's presence in the Sacrament of the Table each week at Peace. Christ, our Host, meets us in this meal of grace and offers himself, fully embodied, in the bread and wine. He invites all to come and meet him in this Holy Meal.

+ GATHERING +

P – *Presider* C – *Congregation* L – *Lector* A – *Assisting Minister*
ELW – *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* ACS – *All Creation Sings*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

ELW #533 vs. 1-3



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick-en, may thy word still o'er me shine
may I un - dis - turb-ed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
as my guid-ing star through life, as my com-fort in all strife.
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

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.

GLORIA

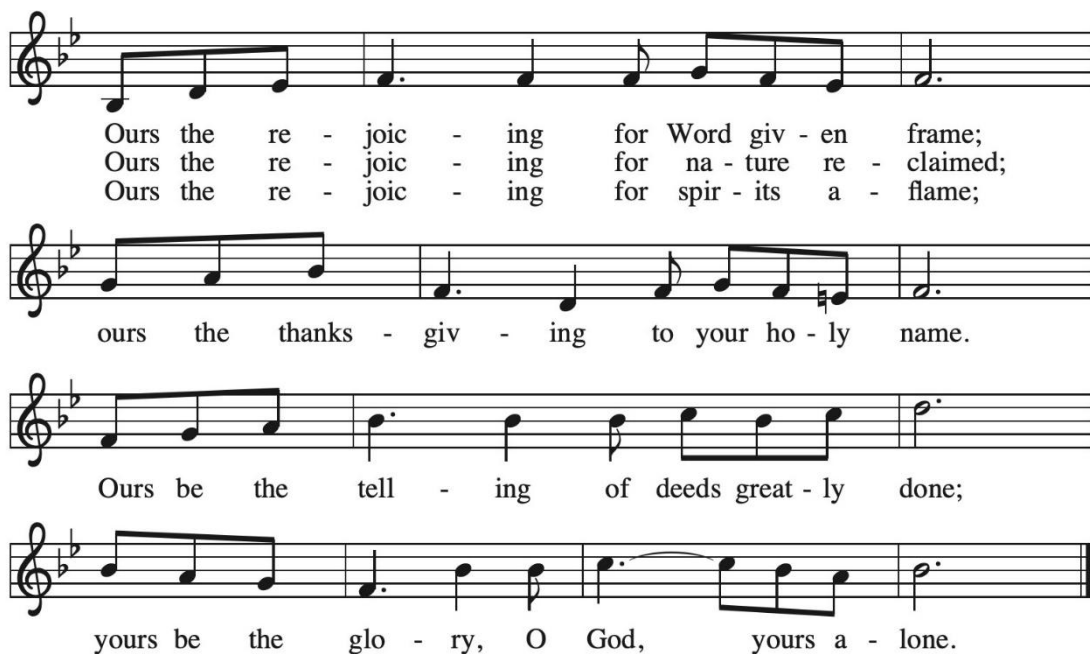
ACS page 31



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;



yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.



Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;
 ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.
 Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;
 yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Scott Sunde

*Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies,
 God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.*

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶ And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?”

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, “Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.”

L Word of God. Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

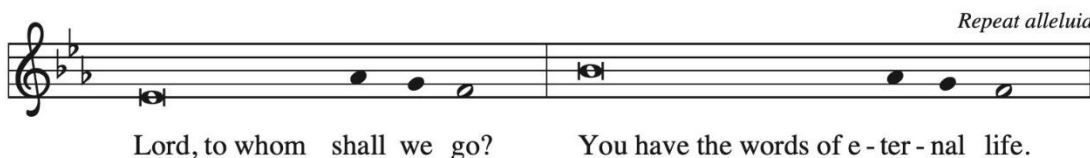
³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L Word of God. Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

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

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P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter.

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-35, 44-52

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." ³⁴ Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. ³⁵ This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: "I will open my mouth to speak in parables;

I will proclaim what has been hidden since the foundation."

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵² And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

P The Gospel of the Lord

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

CHILDREN'S TIME

Shannon Williams

SERMON

Rev. Pam Russell



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Paul Bliss

A Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Petitions are offered that end with:

A God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

When all petitions have been offered:

P Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

C **Amen.**

+ MEAL +

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

We share a gesture of peace with our neighbors.

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, mail in a check, or connect to our secure [Tithely Giving Page](#) via this QR CODE. Whatever size, your gift makes difference—thank you!



OFFERTORY

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW #583, vs. 1-2

Refrain/Estrillo



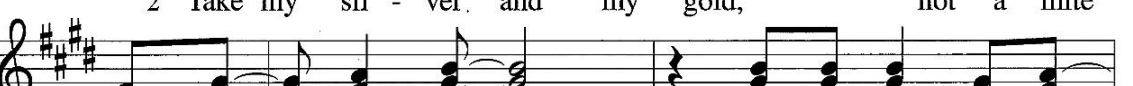
To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na - da más;
Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;



to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón y tu tro - no en él ten - drás.
take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.



1 Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té con - sa - gra -
1 Take my hands and let them move at the im -
2 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite



da a ti, Se - ñor; que a mis ma - nos pue -
pulse of thy love; take my feet and let
would I with - hold; take my in - tel - lect

Refrain/Estrillo



da guiar el im - pul - so de tu a - mor.
them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. Loving God,

C we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ACS page 36

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, almighty and altender God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. And so, with all the creatures of earth, sea, and sky, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ACS page 36



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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P In the night in which he was handed over to death, 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 to remember 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 to remember me.**

P Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his life given on the Tree, and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast. Pour upon us the fruits of your Spirit, that, nurtured by this meal,

we may serve all in hunger and want and so become your body for the world;
through your Son, Jesus Christ, through whom all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty and Altender God, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P In Jesus we are bold to pray:

C **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 Come, share in the feast!

C **Thanks be to God!**

DISTRIBUTION

We commune processionally. Extend your hands to receive bread. A gluten free wafer is also 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 front pew on your way back. 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.

BE KNOWN TO US

ACS page 40



Refrain



We eat the bread of teach-ing, drink wine of wis-dom, are
 giv-en here a taste of the king-dom. To-geth-er
 joined, the great-est and the least, we all are
 one at Wis-dom's ho-ly feast.

1 Wis-dom calls through-out the cit-y, knows our
 2 Sim-ple ones whose hearts are yearn-ing, come and
 3 En-ter with de-light and sing-ing, for her

hun-ger, and in pit-y gives her lov-ing in-vi-
 gain from Wis-dom's learn-ing; bread and wine she is pre-
 rich-ness now is bring-ing us this joy-ous cel-e-

Refrain

ta-tion to the ban-quet of sal-va-tion.
 par-ing, know her lov-ing in the shar-ing.
 bra-tion; eat and drink in ju-bi-la-tion.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray. Compassionate God,
C through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance
 of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
 may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
 We ask this in the name of Jesus,
 through the Spirit who nourishes us now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

P Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C Amen.

+ SENDING +

SENDING HYMN

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

ELW #533, vs. 4-5



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick-en, may thy word still o'er me shine
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
as my guid-ing star through life, as my com-fort in all strife.
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

In consideration for those who remain for the postlude, please depart quietly.



CONTACT INFORMATION

8316 39th Avenue SW, Seattle, WA 98136

206-935-1962

Pastor Erik Kindem's mobile phone number:

206-930-3172

Pastor Erik Kindem's email:

Pastor@PeaceLutheranSeattle.org

Peace Lutheran web page:

[www. PeaceLutheranSeattle.org](http://www.PeaceLutheranSeattle.org)

Kathleen Keyes Office Admin.

Office@PeaceLutheranSeattle.org

Church Office hours:

Tuesday through Thursday 10:00am-3:00pm

Nicole Klinemeier, Youth Director

206-427-6496

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Pastor	Rev. Erik Kindem
Guest Preacher & Presider	Rev. Pam Russell
Minister of Music	Jon Lackey
Liturgical Assistant	Paul Bliss
Acolyte	Zadie Shah
Lector	Scott Sunde
Children's Sermon	Shannon Williams
Greeters	Shannon Williams, Jean Sides
Ushers	Alan Jarvimaki, Mateo Leon-Stephens
Altar Care	Liz & Randy Hernandez
Communion Assistants	Liz & Randy Hernandez
Coffee Server	Betty Beller
Production Techs	Dustin Smith, Alex Wren
Counters	Paul Bliss, Erika Stephens

THIS WEEK'S ACT FOR CREATION

City of Seattle recycling bins don't accept plastic bags and some other plastics. Today's a great day to learn more about what you can do with items the City doesn't accept. Stop by the volunteer display in the narthex today for tips.

OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

The 2026 budget authorized by the congregation at the Annual Meeting calls for an average of \$30,017 in offering income monthly. Thank you for your gifts which support God's mission at Peace, in the Northwest region, and internationally through the ELCA!

Offering Income received in July 2026

07/05/26	\$ 5,755.00
07/12/26	\$ 1,818.00
07/19/26	\$ 1,275.00
<u>Electronic</u>	<u>\$ 9,735.96</u>
Total for July	\$18,583.96

AGAPE FUND VERY LOW

Please consider giving an extra donation to the Agape Fund as there is only \$60 left. This fund is used to help those in need. Thank you for your generosity.

PASTORAL CARE WHILE PASTOR ERIK IS GONE

Pastor Erik will be on vacation from 7/17 through 7/27 and will be back in the office on 7/28. Pastor Paul Winterstein will be available for emergency pastoral care. His number is 206-802-8951.

PLASTIC-FREE LIVING

Today you are invited to visit with Sandy Sanford who will be in the narthex after worship. In 2020, she and her husband decided to give up plastics for Lent, and they have been on this adventure ever since. Visit with Sandy and check out her displays of non-plastic items for the kitchen, laundry, and personal care. We have been observing Plastic-Free July all month, and now it's time to continue our efforts throughout the year!

WILL YOU HELP WITH ALTAR FLOWERS/GREENERY?

Got flowers? Or greenery from your garden? We invite you to sign up to provide chancel flowers; just sign your name by your preferred dates on the chart in the narthex adjacent to the serving area. Thanks!

FILLING THE NURSERY ATTENDANT POSITION

Peace Lutheran Church is looking for a new Nursery Attendant, as Heidi Coy has “retired” from that position. It would be nice to have one or more people from within the church to fill that position. Until that occurs, the nursery will be unattended.

In general terms, the position entails caring for children ages 6 and younger in the Nursery so that parents can be fully participate in the service. The hours are 10am to 12pm on normal Sundays and 9am to 11am during the summer schedule. Typically, the children come down after the children’s message and then would come back up for communion with the family. Ideally there would be two people in the nursery to keep track of everyone. A potential option would be for several members willing to alternate in sharing the workload. If a volunteer system cannot be worked out, hiring a Nursery Attendant would be necessary. The position requires a background check and application process. Any who are interested may contact business committee chair David Kehle.

NEWS from the CREATION CARE TEAM

PLASTIC-FREE PRODUCTS are now available for purchase on the shelves in the Narthex. At this time, items are mostly trial-size personal care products from Public, a locally owned sustainable goods and refill shop on California Ave north of Bradford. Hopefully, you’ll discover some products you like and then replenish them at Public or another retailer.

The **Plastic-Free Products** shelf items & sources will rotate over time.

CODE RED! URGENT NEED FOR ALL BLOOD TYPES

The blood supply across the Pacific Northwest has dropped to emergency levels.

A surge in patient need, combined with fewer donations, has created an urgent shortage — just as summer events and travel peak. Right now, thousands of donation appointments remain unfilled. We do not have enough blood, platelets, or plasma on hand.

Patients are depending on donors today. Please take a moment to book an appointment. Your donation now can make an immediate impact. Visit BloodworksNW.org or call 800-398-7888 to find a date and time that is just right for you.

NEXT SUNDAY IS FIRST SUNDAY FOOD FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

Next Sunday, August 2, is an opportunity for us to *share abundantly* with our neighbors who are struggling to have nutritious food on their tables. EVERYTHING is needed to fill end-of-summer bare shelves: proteins of all kinds (tuna, SPAM, tahini, peanut and other nut butters, sardines), shelf-stable fruits and vegetables, tortillas, breakfast items. Remember: your donations help supply three pantries our own Little Free Pantry on the Peace patio, the weekly Welcome Table in White Center, and the White Center Food Bank. Please bring your food gifts to the chancel so they may be blessed before distribution.

SUPPORT CATASTROPHIC FLOODING IN SOUTH TEXAS

Catastrophic flooding in south Texas has forced people from their homes and left communities covered in debris and mud as the water recedes. Dangerous heat waves are putting vulnerable neighbors at risk, especially older adults, children and those without reliable access to cooling. At the same time, wildfires across the western United States continue to threaten lives, homes and entire communities.

These crises may be different in nature, but they share one heartbreaking reality: people are suffering. Can they count on you to help?

PRAYER LIST

Please continue to remember the sick and home-bound of our congregation and others who have sought our prayers: **Sick/Recovering:** Kevin Adcock; Gary Aguilar; Susan Bayles; Deric Bevier; Jeff & Dolly Chale; Cindy Collie; Vonda Cuchine; Justin Dexter; Jeffery Epley; Bob Gaines; Ann Gault; Donna Heiland; Terry Henson; Evelyn Horton; Cade Howard; Maria Iriarte; Jane; Ken Keyes; Kari Kindem; Sandy King; Gordon Knight; Jason Knudsen; Lu Kramer; John Lindsay; Jan Madsen; Evelyn Martinez; Helen McBride; Erik Nelson; Juliana Outlaw; Michelle Pierce; June Killinger Poginy; Hadyn Prugh; Rebecca; Kelly Renfro; Aaden Smith; Sarah Taylor; Allison Toso; Angela Walker; Willy.

Homebound: Connie Benjamin; Joyce Bitner; Bob Gaines; Lu Kramer; Marjorie Johnson; Helen Nesbitt; Inta Zagars.

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 recognize that our congregation is strengthened by diversity, the embrace of equity, and our commitment to anti-racism. We welcome and celebrate the inclusion of those of any race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression into the life and mission of our congregation. We invite all people to join us as we work to better understand the meaning of grace for our lives.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We respectfully acknowledge that we gather on the ancestral homeland of the DUWAMISH PEOPLE. We recognize the DUWAMISH and other SALISH PEOPLES, the FIRST STEWARDS of this land, who have called this region home—and continue to call it home—from time immemorial. We join with them and with all people who see the Earth, its creatures, watersheds, and habitats, as part of an integral whole reflecting our Creator's intention for wholeness and balance.

PERMISSIONS

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