



Peace Lutheran Church  
2540 Applegate Street  
Philomath, OR 97370

## *Peace Progress*

February 2026

Wrap us in your warm love  
on this winter day, O God.

# February 2026

# Peace Progress



## From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Lent begins this month with Ash Wednesday on February 18th. We gather for soup supper at 5 pm with Ash Wednesday Worship, including the Imposition of Ashes, to follow at 6 pm in the sanctuary. The ashes on our foreheads are significant for two reasons. First, the ashes remind us that we truly are dust and to dust we shall return; this is humbling! Second, the ashes are made in the sign of the cross; this gives us confidence because Jesus lives! Plan on coming each Wednesday in Lent (February 25, March 4,11,18,25) for soup supper at 5 pm and a brief service at 6 pm.

The focus of Lent this year will be the book of Job. Each Sunday we will be reading a portion of Job and considering ways to respond to life's sufferings. We all suffer—personally and privately. A husband loses a job. A child gets divorced. A parent dies. And now, thanks to media, we can see and experience more of the world's catastrophes and suffering in real time! We need the book of Job, now, more than ever.

There are some very down-to-earth practical techniques that we can use to assist people who are experiencing intense suffering. What can we do? The suggestions below are points made by Reed Lessing that I think are quite helpful:

**Show up.** Our instincts often are to stand on the sidelines and let things go their natural way.

We may think that we do not really have anything profound to say or contribute. In fact, it would have been better if we just showed up and remained silent. I once heard someone explain ministry this way, "Ministry is 90 percent presence."

Consider the friends of Job. It was excellent when they showed up to console Job. It was a disaster when they started speaking and offering explanations for what was happening in Job's life.

**Share their pain.** This does not mean that we compare our situation to theirs. I remember when a relative passed away and one of my friends tried to console me this way, "Jeremy, when my father passed away, it took me about six months to be over the loss. Just hold on and you will get over your loss too." This wasn't very helpful. To console by comparing does not work. Every person's situation is different. And everyone grieves in different ways.

Consider Job once again. Job needed a shoulder to cry. The opposite happens. When Job's friends visit, they suggest that he should have suffered more (Job 11:6)! They would have done better if they simply dropped off a note sharing their concern.

**Take the initiative.** Lessing explains: When you have a friend who's in shock, you take the initiative. Don't say, "Call me if you need anything." That's not helpful to somebody in shock. Because now they've got to work to get your help.

Don't even say, "How can I help?" Because when somebody's in shock, they haven't the slightest idea how we can help. When somebody's in shock they are numb. They are paralyzed. What you do want to do is give people options. Say, "I'd like to bring you dinner, will Wednesday or Thursday night work best?" Call them and say, "I'm going to the store, what can I pick up for you?"

I look forward to applying Job's life lessons into my life. I hope you are looking forward too to a time of growth and personal application!  
Keep looking up,  
*Pastor J*

## PEACE BY THE NUMBERS

Date	Attendance in Person	Online Views	Offering
December 21	131	358	\$10,955
December 24	155	227	N/A
December 28	112	157	\$11,055
January 4	118	225	\$4,179
January 11	100	205	\$2,898
January 18	100	270	\$2,523
January 25	108	150	\$2,815

## PLAN FOR WORSHIP

February 1 – 10:00am Worship service with Communion. Fourth Sunday after Epiphany.

Annual Congregational Meeting at 11am during Fellowship.

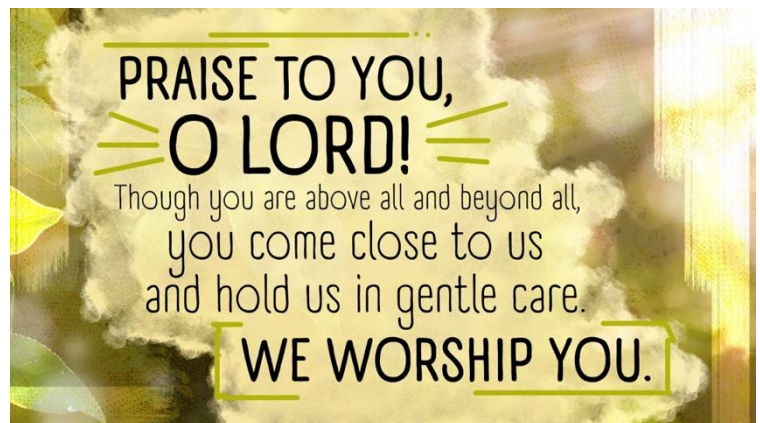
February 8 – 10:00am Worship service. Fifth Sunday after Epiphany. (Local Boy Scout Troop serving)

February 15 – 10:00am Worship Service with Communion. Transfiguration of Our Lord.

February 18 – 5:00pm Soup Supper. 6:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship service.

February 22 – 10:00am Worship Service. First Sunday in Lent. Corvallis for Refugees visiting.

February 25 – 5:00pm Soup Supper. 6:00pm Lenten Worship service.



## EMPATHY STUDY & RECAP

Pastor Lucke is offering one more class on empathy in February on February 4. How has it gone? We had 30 people sign up to participate.

What is empathy? Empathy is looking at the world from someone else's perspective to experience what the other person is feeling and then expressing your understanding of those feelings to the person. Is empathy Biblical? You bet! Consider Romans 12:15, "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep." Consider also Hebrews 13:3, "Remember those in prison as if you were chained with them, and those mistreated, since you also are in the body." Are there any benefits to practicing empathy? Many! A person will experience deeper relationships. A person will have an expanded perspective in life. It is likely empathizers are more joyful too. Let Pastor know if you would like the zoom link to participate in the final session on Feb 4.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST IN FEBRUARY

Peace MEN'S Breakfast: It is time for the Men's First Saturday Breakfast, February 7th, mark your calendar for fellowship with friends. A hearty breakfast will be prepared by Head Chef Mark Koeppel and crew. Topic: "Being of Like Mind", Philippians 2:22 and 1 Peter 3:8 for starters. What does that mean? Bring your Bible. Coffee on at 8:00 am, breakfast served at 8:30 and topic discussion 9-10. Always good to know how many will be attending to help the Chef, please let Oscar Gutbrod know by February 5th if you plan to attend. [gutbrodo@oregonstate.edu](mailto:gutbrodo@oregonstate.edu) or call 541-231-3954



Do plan to attend.

## BE AWARE OF POSSIBLE EMAIL SCAMS



We are starting to see more and more false use of texting and email services to our membership. I have received several texts and emails purporting to be from Pastor Lucke, but when reviewing them, the email address is fictitious, or the phone number false. Today it's easy using AI tools to search out people and secure contact information, then use that information to engage in attempts to falsely ask for funds, or asking for additional people to contact. We all need to be aware of this activity. As one of your Elders, I am concerned that at some point you may receive what

looks like a legitimate request from me, or possibly a request from another Elder. If you should ever get a request from me, or another Elder, or Pastor Lucke, please don't respond unless you have personally checked with me, Pastor Lucke, or another Elder to verify the authenticity of the contact. We are a very loving church family and always want to assume the best in our family. This makes us especially good targets for this type of behavior.

Blessings in Christ, Elder David Leding

## **FREEZER MEAL MINISTRY UPDATE**

The Freezer Meal Team will be getting together on Thursday, February, 12th at 9:00 am. We will be cooking up a storm and stocking the freezer with delicious meals.



If you would like to join us on the 12th you are absolutely welcome! We really have a great time and it truly is a fantastic feeling to make meals for those who need them. Plus, we all love to cook!

If you're not ready to cook but want to see what we do... no problem! We can always use the help with chopping, prepping, or that fun activity...washing dishes! And, of course, gentlemen are welcome too! Just ask any of us and we will be happy to help with any of your questions.

For those who would like to be on the receiving end and would benefit and enjoy these meals, please reach out to Pastor Jeremy or the office. You are why we do this! It truly makes us happy to do this for you.

Thank you! The Freezer Meal Team

## **RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**

February is Blood Drive month again. This Valentine's Day, consider giving the gift of life. We are having a blood drive on Friday, February 13th from Noon to 5. There are still some spots available if you would like to donate. Also, cookies or other baked goods would be appreciated and can be delivered to the church kitchen on Thursday or Friday morning by 11:30. Your prayers for a successful drive for this life-saving item are very much appreciated.



## **BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK OF JOB**

One of the Bible's greatest wisdom books is the book of Job. Martin Luther asserted that "Job is magnificent and sublime as no book of Scripture." The early Christian scholar Jerome called Job an "eel." An eel because the more one tried to contain it, the slipperier it becomes! Our Sunday morning Adult Bible Study Classes will be based on the book's major topics and themes. The study begins on Sunday, March 1 and will continue each Sunday until April 19. Here are the plans for the study:

March 1: Introduction and Overview of the book  
March 8: Why do the Righteous Serve God? Job 1  
March 15: The not so helpful theology of Job's friends (Job 4-5)  
March 22: Elihu's attempt to explain suffering (Job 32-33)

March 29: Yahweh (God) Speaks (Job 38-41)  
April 5: Easter....No Class  
April 12: Job Repents (Job 42)  
April 19: How best to help suffering people

## LENT SOUP SUPPERS



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which is Wednesday, February 18. This is a special time of remembrance as we consider our Lord's life and journey to the cross. Peace journeys through Lent with special mid-week services beginning on Wednesday, February 18 and concluding on Wednesday, March 25. We will be having Soup Suppers on those nights, and you can help by providing food. Sally Stouder is organizing these opportunities to supply soup, bread, and/or cookies; ask her if you have questions. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin

board in the fellowship hall corridor by February 1, so please consider signing up if you can help. This is a wonderful time for fellowship and worship with our church family.

## BACKPACK MINISTRY WORKING PARTY

On Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am, we will be having a backpack work party. The work party typically lasts about an hour and needs volunteers to help place warming items (hats, scarves, gloves etc.) into a backpack, as well as hygiene items and food/snack offerings. If you would like to bring something to contribute, men's warm socks or hoodies (new OR laundered & gently used) or individually wrapped snacks are always needed. There is no requirement for bringing items to help. On February 15<sup>th</sup>, we will be setting up and would love some help right after church. Please see Diane Crocker if you have questions. Thank you!



## ALTAR FLOWERS



ALTAR FLOWERS give glory to God, beautify the sanctuary, and may commemorate an important person or event in your life. You are invited to join this tradition of Peace Lutheran and churches through the ages. Fresh cut flowers represent the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ for our salvation.

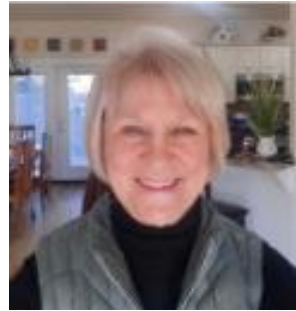
You can give flowers for many reasons: in memory of loved ones who have died, birthdays, anniversaries, or any other important event in your life or theirs — or in thanks to God for a blessing....or simply to give glory to God. When you give the flowers, your commemoration is shared with the congregation in the worship bulletin.

After the service, the flowers are yours to take home. They will continue to glorify God and will beautify your home, or you may share them with family and friends.

Sign up for a Sunday on the Flower Chart in the narthex, giving your name and your commemoration.

Thank you for giving glory to God, beautifying the sanctuary, and sharing your commemoration with us!

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU



### Scott Kinder and Donna Whitaker

Donna was born in a small town in South Dakota called Delmont. Around the age of 4, her family moved to Lebanon, Oregon. She grew up in Lebanon and graduated from Lebanon High School. Later in life, She went back to school and for many years was employed as a medical secretary. Donna has two children, a son, Kylor and a daughter Paige. Kylor attended the Naval Academy. He lives in Virginia with his wife, Susan, they have 5 children, and all are grown finishing their education and pursuing their careers. His son, Reiss is now attending the Naval Academy. Her daughter, Paige and her husband Shane have three children. Paige attended Pacific Lutheran University and is currently an elementary school teacher in Albany.

Donna's former husband passed away in 2010 and in 2014 she married Scott Kinder. Scott was born in St. Helena, California where he was raised. He attended University of Sacramento and began his career working for the US Treasury Department. He has one daughter Nicole. She and her husband Matt have three children. His grandson Cade and his wife Cylee along with their daughter Zenia live in the Portland area and his granddaughter Taylor and grandson Aiden live in Indiana where Matt and Nicole now live.

They both love to travel. For several years they were considered snowbirds, living in Albany 6 months and 6 months in Goodyear, AZ. They now go to AZ for one month during the month of April. They also enjoy taking road trips to various places. They say, " We are very thankful that we now have a church family at Peace Lutheran Church."

~~By Peggy Krueger

## FEBRUARY ROTARY MEETINGS

All are welcome to the Philomath Rotary Club meetings on February 3rd & 17<sup>th</sup> at noon in Peace's Fellowship Hall

Discussions on Feb. 3 will include Philomath Rotary Club upcoming community service goals and the City of Philomath Community Vision 2050.

The meeting on Feb 17 will include the Philomath Middle School "Student of the Month" award presentation. The main meeting presentation will be "Emergency Management Overview and Emergency Preparedness" by Bryan Lee, Emergency Manager Benton County Sheriff's Office.

We hope you can come and please remember lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to [rotaryfred@hotmail.com](mailto:rotaryfred@hotmail.com) if you will be attending so we can plan the number of meals.

## LOOKING FOR SOMEWHERE TO GO FOR VALENTINES DAY?



Join Friends of the Family Ministries at Comedy Date Night on Thursday, February 12. They've curated an all-new lineup of exceptionally talented, clean comedians, featured on platforms like DryBar and SiriusXM. It's more than a comedy show; it's an opportunity to relax, unwind, and share joyful moments together in a warm, welcoming atmosphere.

Location: Hope Church, 2817 Santiam Hwy SE, Albany, OR 97322

When: Thursday, February 12, 2026

Doors open at 6:15pm Show runs 7pm-8:30pm

Come early to enjoy refreshments and our Photo Booth before the show begins!

Tickets: \$25 per couple (online at [fofm.org](http://fofm.org))

\$35 per couple (at the door)

Make this a night you'll laugh about long after it's over!



**Love is patient,  
Love is kind.**

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4

# WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITY

On Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026

Redeemer Lutheran Church is hosting in their Upper Room

## **Spiritual Conversations Workshop**

*Dispelling the myths that keep us from sharing **the most valuable piece of information** we have!*



Talking to the people you are closest to about spiritual matters doesn't have to be awkward or uncomfortable. Abundant research indicates the vast majority of people who stopped, or never started coming to church credit their beginning to someone simply inviting them. However, they weren't invited by strangers on a street corner... They were invited by *friends, family*, or sometimes just *acquaintances*.

### **We invite you to come to this workshop provided free by Lutheran Hour Ministries!**

- Learn practical tools for building trust, so you can then approach spiritual conversations with wisdom.
- Rather than worrying about saying “the right thing”, learn how timing, posture, and especially listening matters more.
- Begin to notice when spiritual openness is happening and respond in ways that fit the moment without rushing, pushing - or retreating into silence.
- Jenifer Prophete, Director of The Hopeful Neighborhood Project for LHM will introduce you to the *Spiritual Conversation Curve*, a research-based means to help recognize when a conversation is welcome and when it is not. Learn how to respond thoughtfully, without pressure or forcing moments that aren't ready.

**Register now at [www.lhm.org/salem](http://www.lhm.org/salem)**

*Each attendee must register individually.*

9:00-9:25 am – Arrive; coffee, tea, and conversation; find a seat

9:30-11:30 am – Workshop 1, *The Eager Conversationalist*

11:30-12:30 pm – Lunch provided

12:30-2:25 pm – Workshop 2, *Spiritual Conversation Curve*

2:30 pm – Close with Prayer

2:45 – Jennifer Prophete will be available after the workshop to discuss *The Hopeful Neighborhood Project* with anyone who may want more information in case it would be of interest for their congregation.



# FEBRUARY

*birthdays & anniversaries*

## Birthdays

- 4 Jordan Kilgore
- 6 Kay Glathar
- 7 Gregg Lockwood
- 7 Miles Lucke
- 7 Larry Oliver
- 9 Cheryl Miller
- 10 Colleen Schulze
- 10 Nicholas Abele
- 14 Charla Koeppe
- 18 Molly Schulze
- 19 Sabina Berglund
- 21 Marilyn Ross
- 21 Keihin Stokes
- 26 Sam Worth

## Anniversaries

- 14 Karla & Tony Mendoza
- 24 Dan & Chona Dusek

\*\* Please let Karyn know about any additions, deletions, or corrections to the Birthday and Anniversary Lists. Thanks. \*\*

# February Volunteers

## February 1

Ushers	Genny Filbert, Margaret Phillpott, & Sharon Starr
Reader	Margaret Phillpott
Fellowship	Ellen Holroyd
Flowers	
Communion	Brian & Callie Santora

## February 8

Ushers	Boy Scouts
Reader	Boy Scouts
Fellowship	(Boy Scouts help)
Flowers	

## February 15

Ushers	Jim & Lynn Reams
Reader	Carole Gutbrod
Fellowship	Maggie Baker & Sally Stouder
Flowers	Anna Colwell
Communion	Brian & Callie Santora

## February 22

Ushers	
Reader	Rob Schulze
Fellowship	Elaine Schwartz & Margaret Phillpott
Flowers	



# FEBRUARY

## Save the Date

March 8 – Daylight Saving Time Begins  
 March 28 – Peace Outside Cleanup Work Party  
 March 29 – Palm Sunday (Beginning of Holy Week)  
 April 5 – Easter Sunday  
 April 24 – Red Cross Blood Drive  
 June 21 – Peace 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:30 Healing Service 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service with Communion 11:00 Annual Congregational Meeting	2 8:15 TOPS	3 12:00 Rotary Board Meeting	4 7:30 Eat, Chat, Pray 10:00 Online Empathy Bible Study 2:30 Dementia Warriors	5 7:00 Men @ Imagine 10:00 Ladies Guild Meeting	6	7 8:00 Men's Breakfast
8 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service (Boy Scouts serving)	9 8:15 TOPS 10:00 Pieces by Peace (Jani's House)	10	11 7:30 Eat, Chat, Pray 1:30 Dementia Warriors Leaders Meeting 4:00 Elders Meeting	12 7:00 Men @ Imagine 9:00 Freezer Meal Cooking	13 12:00 Red Cross Blood Drive	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> 8:00 Freezer Meal Packaging
15 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service with Communion 11:00 Prep for Backpack Work Party	16 <i>President's Day</i> 8:15 TOPS 11:00 Backpack Work Party	17 12:00 Rotary Meeting 7:00 Church Council Meeting	18 7:30 Eat, Chat, Pray 2:30 Dementia Warriors 5:00 Soup Supper 6:00 Ash Wednesday Worship Service	19 7:00 Men @ Imagine 12:00 Chamber of Commerce	20	21
22 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service (Corvallis for Refugees Visiting)	23 8:15 TOPS	24	25 7:30 Eat, Chat, Pray 5:00 Soup Supper 6:00 Lenten Worship Service	26 7:00 Men @ Imagine 11:00 PCS Board Meeting	27	28