



Peace Lutheran Church  
2540 Applegate Street  
Philomath, OR 97370

*Peace Progress*



May 2026

Peace Progress



Dear Peace Lutheran Church Family:

Peace is in the process of putting together and offering to our congregation something new and important called *Stephen Ministries*. This ministry offers a proven and effective way to organize, equip, and supervise a team of congregational members called Stephen Ministers. These ministers will provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties. I am, personally, a trained Stephen Leader, who would be involved in helping train Stephen ministers who have a passion for this calling. Stephen Ministries has been used in congregations across the globe and has been providing empathetic help to individuals for over 50 years. In Galatians 6:2 we are called to “bear one another’s burden, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” In John 15:12 we are commanded to “Love One another as I have loved you.” We believe that this is a vital ministry and would be of great benefit to our congregation and community at large. Over the next few months, Peace Lutheran will be laying the groundwork to start Stephen Ministry training this September. Please be watchful and prayerful in considering being a part of this Christ-centered ministry team.

Blessings,

Matt Carr  
conmatty04@gmail.com



Dear friends,

This month I’ll begin teaching a six-week Overview of the Bible class. We’ll meet during the adult Sunday School class hour (9:00 am) in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome! The first class is on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Consider why this class might be helpful to you!

**Why the Bible?** I typed in “Biblical literacy statistics” in an AI Overview just to see how it would respond.

While 87% of American households own a Bible, only about 11%–20% of Americans have read it entirely, with roughly one-third reading it at least weekly. Despite low overall engagement, 2025 data shows a surprise resurgence, with weekly Bible reading by Gen Z and Millennials (and particularly men) jumping

to roughly 50%. Bible usage dropped to a low of 39% in 2023, yet 56% of Americans express curiosity about it.

**Why the Bible?** The Bible is quite a bit different than other books. How so? Only the Bible teaches that salvation is a free gift of God’s grace. The pressure and strain is off us. Every other “holy book” (ie. Quran, The Book of Mormon, Science and Health, etc.) teaches that people save themselves. The pressure is placed on people to do the impossible!

**Why the Bible?** The Bible touches our hearts. When we read it, God shows up and meets us. Have you ever been inspired by something that you’ve read in the Bible? I hope so!

Come with an open mind and a Bible if you have one. We’ll discuss translations and how the Bible came to be. We’ll talk about interpreting the Bible. We’ll run through different sections and books.



In peace,  
Pastor J

## PEACE BY THE NUMBERS

Date	Attendance in Person	Online Views	Offering
April 5	205	128	\$6,893
April 12	111	101	\$1,508
April 19	111	124	\$2,840
April 26	112	143	\$1,836

## PLAN FOR WORSHIP

- May 3 – 10:00am Worship service with Communion. Fifth Sunday of Easter.
- May 10 – 10:00am Worship service. Sixth Sunday of Easter.
- May 17 – 10:00am Worship Service with Communion. Ascension Sunday
- May 24 – 10:00am Worship Service. Pentecost and Confirmation.
- May 31 – 10:00am Worship Service. Trinity Sunday.



## PIECES BY PEACE



Pieces by Peace will be back at Jani's house for our gathering on Monday, May 11 at 10:15am.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST IN MAY

Men of Peace, please join us for the May Men's breakfast in the fellowship hall on Saturday, May 2. Coffee on at 8:00am and breakfast will start around 8:30. Start your day off right. Talk to Mark for more information and to let him know if you will attend so he knows how many meals to prepare.



## PHOTOS FOR BULLETIN BOARD AND DIRECTORY



Have you have recently joined our Peace Lutheran family? Have you had a photo taken to be placed on our Member Bulletin Board and in our Online Church Directory? Or maybe you are a long-term member who is wanting to update your photo? You can send a photo directly to Trudy Ewing (trud3@aol.com) or see her at church to have your photo taken for posting

on the bulletin board. The photo board is really helpful for those still learning all of our names and faces! You can also update your online directory photo on your own, whenever you want. If you would like help with that, please let Karyn know (peaceinphilomath@gmail.com) and she will walk you through the steps.

## "UP FOR GRABS" TABLE

The "Up for Grabs" table located by the exit door in the Fellowship Hall is almost empty. Soon, anything remaining will be donated to the Arc Thrift Store. Please take one last look and if you see something you can use...help yourself!

## LITTLE LIBRARY

Thanks to an anonymous volunteer, our Little Library, located on Applegate Street in front of the church parking lot, will be getting a new lease on life! Big thanks to our volunteer for taking on this task. Plans are in the works to add new categories and types of reading material. Stop by and take a look!



## EASTER THANK YOU

Thank you to all our volunteers who helped to make our Easter season such a blessing to each of us, our families, and friends. From the many volunteers who worked inside and outside to spruce up the church, those who helped with fellowship and the Easter egg hunt, those who helped with flowers and music, plus those who helped with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services and other numerous activities, we are so appreciative. Words are not enough to express how grateful we are for the help we received to make Easter the wonderful season it is, and your kindness and generosity are well noted. God's blessings. ~Sally Stouder



## NAME TAGS



Did you know that all members of Peace have magnetized name tags? Wearing name tag on Sundays is a great way to help our new members who are working to learn lots of new folks. Your name tag is located in your mailbox in the Narthex. Please consider wearing it each Sunday!

## DEMENTIA WARRIORS INVITATION

Anyone from the congregation is invited to participate in the Dementia Warriors activity on Wednesday, May 6 from 2:30-4 p.m. Our presenter is Anna Looney, PhD, who brings joy, happiness and healing through art. Anna believes self-care is an important aspect of caregiving. Anna will lead us in making simple collages and encouraging conversation around the tables. All abilities are welcome. Take care of yourself by dropping in (no RSVP needed).

Thanks, also, to those who attended our Therapeutic Art session last month, sponsored by Maxtivity! We had such a wonderful time together.



## TRUSTEE CORNER



Looking for something at church? A “Where to Find it” list is posted on the wall in the Fellowship Hallway. It’s also a reminder of where to put things back when you’re done using it. Check it out!

Mark Koepe and John Mergl - Building Trustees  
Tim Ewing - Landscape Trustee  
Janette Payne - Storage Trustee

## RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Peace hosted a successful Red Cross Blood Drive on Friday, April 24. A total of 60 units of blood were collected, well surpassing our goal of 50 units! The event went smoothly in large part to our volunteers. Thank you to everyone who was involved! If you have an interest in helping, contact Cheryl Narver.



## GETTING TO KNOW YOU



**Matt & Connie Carr**

***Connie:***

I was born in good old Corvallis, back when the hospital was right by the campus. I went to Adams Elementary, Western View Middle school (anyone remember that?) and Corvallis High. It's not a huge stretch if you assume that I went to OSU, and you would be correct. I graduated with a teaching degree. My first job was in Las Vegas, Nevada (not New Mexico) and I began my career in an inner-city elementary school. I learned a lot!

Fast forward a bit through a lot of life and I met Matt! Yep, we taught at the same school. We decided to move closer to our parents (Salem and Corvallis) as we tried to start a family. We got teaching jobs in Hillsboro, and I got my Master's at Lewis and Clark College. Through adoption, God gifted us with two beautiful boys, Oliver and Avery, who kept us hopping for the next twenty years. (If you have kids, you know that is untrue; they still keep us hopping!)

We were lucky to have my mom live with us for a few years before she moved to assisted living. Since her house in Corvallis was empty, she was delighted at our plan to retire and live in the family house. We figured that it would keep us busy because after 38 years of teaching, I found retirement a bit daunting. My mom did not live to see us here, but she did love the plan. The house is in Southwest Corvallis, and it is a project! When it rains, we work on the inside and when the sun shines, we head outside. With the house and an orchard, it is about 1.5 acres, which is great because I love to garden! I also read a lot, and Matt and I like to bicycle, ski, snowshoe, hike, travel, and putz around together.

We attended Trinity Lutheran Church in Hillsboro, and it was connected to the school that our boys attended. When we moved, our pastor suggested that we check out Peace, as he knew Pastor Jeremy, and we did. I love our new church home and look forward to meeting more people and serving God however I am called.

***Matt:***

I was born in New Jersey, and shortly after that moved to San Diego, Calif. Then after my dad retired from the Navy we moved to Palmdale, Calif., located in the Mohave desert. There I went through Middle School and high school. It was also there that I was inspired by a great music teacher and still good friend who was a great inspiration to me and many others. It was there that I realized at fairly young age I wanted to be a professional trumpet player. And so, I did. I went to Chaffey Community College that had an awesome jazz program and later transferred to UNLV. After finishing my B.M. I ended up playing on the Las Vegas strip for various production shows and "star" room theatres. I did that for 18 years. After finishing my music degrees at UNLV I began teaching public school and that is where I met my lovely wife... Connie. We moved to the Portland area shortly after to be close to family. Shortly after we adopted two wonderful boys, Oliver and Avery. After teaching in the Hillsboro School District for 27 years, Connie and I both retired and moved down here to Corvallis and now reside in the very house she grew up in. I enjoy photography, riding my motorcycle, and traveling.

Peace Lutheran church was referred to us by our Pastor at Trinity Lutheran in Hillsboro. We couldn't be more blessed to be here at Peace. We have found a home church we love.

*I want to add a note that both Connie and Matt have become involved in activities at Peace. Matt helps with the music program and is a trained Stephen Ministry Leader, which is a program he would like to see developed at Peace. Connie is involved in the freezer meal program. It is a joy to have this couple join our church. Be sure and say "HELLO" and introduce yourself to them. Peggy Krueger*

## FREEZER MEAL MINISTRY

Mark your calendar!

The Freezer Meal Team will be getting together on Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> 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, you are welcome! We have a great time and feel most honored to make meals for those who need them. If cooking is not your thing, you can come anyway! We always need someone to chop and prep or just help wash dishes.



If you need meals, or know someone who is, please contact Pastor Jeremy or the office.

## SPECIAL FELLOWSHIPS JUNE 14 & 21



Mark your calendars for two special Sundays – June 14 & June 21! On Sunday, June 14, we will celebrate the end of the Children's Sunday School Year with a special fellowship that will include Games, a Cake/Prize Walk, Popcorn, and Ice Cream. Stay after church to help us celebrate our kiddos and the start of their summer vacations!

On Sunday, June 21, we will celebrate Peace's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a special Fellowship BBQ, Anniversary Cake, and a Slideshow with photos through the years at Peace. We hope you will join us as we share some wonderful memories of the past, and look forward to a bright future at Peace. More details will be shared in the June newsletter!



## MOTHER'S DAY POEM BY GARY BLANCHARD

### MOTHERS

To the mothers  
in my life  
Grandmothers, mothers  
daughters, and wife  
Mothers are the best  
each passing day  
They are the finest role models  
in every way

They keep things in order  
they calm the rough seas  
They always feign innocence  
when involved in a tease

They cook, they clean  
they keep us in line  
They do all that they can  
to make sure that we shine

They nurse our wounds  
are sympathetic when we hurt  
They polish our faces  
and scrub off the dirt

They show us love  
when few others will  
They always encourage us  
no matter how steep is the hill

They give us their all  
and they do it for free  
They did it for you  
and they did it for me

There's nothing as warm  
as a mother's hug  
They make the world seem right  
as our heartstrings they tug

They don't care if  
you're a daughter or a son  
How can we possibly repay them  
for what they have done?

There is no doubt they are angels  
sent from heaven above  
how else could they give us  
such unconditional love



Perhaps the best thing  
that we can do  
is pass on what they've taught us  
as life we go through

Be compassionate and thoughtful  
and always be fair  
and let those who are around you  
know that you care

GWB, Mother's Day 5/10/2026

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES



### FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Every Tuesday from  
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm  
at Grace Center.  
(980 NW Spruce Ave, Corvallis)

Sponsored in part by:



The Grace Center Family Caregiver Support Group meets **every Tuesday!** The support group is free and **open to all family caregivers**, whether they are using Grace Center's services or not. The group is facilitated by Erin Mitchell, a professional licensed counselor, who brings warmth and guidance to overwhelmed caregivers. The group focuses both on **group discussion** and **sharing**.

Note: **Respite Care** is available from 1:00pm to 2:30pm during the support group. Services are **FREE** for the duration of the support group. If the individual is not an enrolled participant, we ask that you provide advanced notice, so we can discuss their care needs. Grace Center reserves the right to determine case by case for non-enrolled participants if they are an appropriate fit for our respite program.

To arrange for respite services during the support group (**must be in advance**), call the Grace Center office: 541-754-8417

**NEED A RIDE?**

Benton County veterans are eligible to receive **FREE** transportation supports for medical appointments!

Contact us today for more information.

☎ 541-368-7100  
✉ veterans@ocwcog.org

Benton County OREGON  
OREGON Cascades West Council of Governments

## REMEMBERING JOHN LEACH

John Roger Leach



John Roger Leach, age 93, passed away peacefully on March 24, 2026, surrounded by the love of his family. He was born on May 1, 1932, in Lincoln, Nebraska, to Raymond and Anna Leach.

John was preceded in death by his parents; his brothers, Kenneth and Clifford; his sisters, Donna and Judy; and his son, Gary Kenneth Leach. He is lovingly remembered by his devoted wife, Lucy Annie Leach, the love of his life. He is also survived by his sister, Maryann Jackson; his daughters, Lori Melton and Janice Matney; his sons-in-law, Marty Melton and Gary Matney; along with a large family of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren who all brought him immense pride and joy.\*

John served his country honorably in the United States Navy as a SeaBee during the Korean War. After returning home, he married Marciel Coral Barton and began raising his family, embracing the responsibilities of fatherhood with dedication and strength. He spent over 20 years working for Boise Cascade in Independence, Oregon, where he was a respected employee and a passionate union advocate, serving as a union president for several years. Later in life, John married his high school sweetheart, Lucy Anne, and together they built a life rooted in love, partnership, and shared memories. They remained by each other's side until his passing, living on their cherished property in Philomath, Oregon. John will be remembered for his strength, loyalty, and deep love for his family. His legacy lives on in the many lives he touched and the family he helped build.

**A celebration of John's life will be held at Peace Lutheran Church on April 10, 2026, from 5-9 PM.**

\*His cherished grandchildren survive John: Merideth Schrepfer and her husband, Jason; Mason Holloway and his wife, Keri; Mathew Melton and his wife, Chrissy; Michael Melton and his wife, Ashley; Morgan Silacci and her husband, Don; Bryan Leach and his wife, Kayla; and Anna Lorenz and her husband, Chris.

John was further blessed with many beloved great-grandchildren: Gavin Kachel and his fiancée, Aleysa; Carter Kachel and partner, Nikilie; Brysen Kachel; Tobin Holloway; Sidnee Holloway; Michell Melton and partner Carly; Maverick Melton and partner, Ashlyn; Marti Melton; and Mikayla Melton; Maxen Melton; Merrick Melton; Madalynn Melton; Madison Leach; Garret John Leach; Elaina Lorenz; and Orrin Lorenz. He also leaves behind two treasured great-great-grandchildren, Zada and Kru Kachel.



### *Birthdays*

- 3 Samuel Holroyd
- 4 Josie Kilgore
- 4 Megan Kilgore
- 5 David Guenther
- 11 Glen Williams
- 13 Felicity Pittman
- 15 Jeremy Lucke
- 16 Alyssa Stanley
- 16 Tami Faasse
- 17 Amy Baker
- 18 Ed Haines
- 22 Justin Stokes
- 24 Linda Schuerman
- 26 Elaine Schwartz

### *Anniversaries*

- 1 Matt & Julie Stouder
- 20 Matt & Andrea Johnson
- 21 Joe & Janette Payne
- 31 John & Genny Filbert

# May Volunteers

## May 3

Ushers	Jim & Lynn Reams
Reader	Ryan Harrington
Fellowship	Ellen Holroyd
Flowers	
Communion	Sally Stouder & Maggie Baker

## May 10

Ushers	Patrick & Anne Schroeder
Reader	Carole Gutbrod
Fellowship	Kay Glather & Friend
Flowers	

## May 17

Ushers	Ellie & Rachel Harrington
Reader	Audrey Bond
Fellowship	Sharon Starr & Angela & Allen Sanford
Flowers	Sanford Family
Communion	Sally Stouder & Maggie Baker

## May 24

Ushers	Margaret Phillpott & Audrey Bond
Reader	Debbi Weiler
Fellowship	
Flowers	

## May 31

Ushers	Jim & Lynn Reams
Reader	
Fellowship	Sally Stouder & Maggie Baker
Flowers	



Save the Date – important dates beyond the month of May

- **June 14 – End of School Year Celebration (after church)**
- **June 19 – Red Cross Blood Drive**
- **June 21 – Peace 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration & Father’s Day**
- **July 9-11 – Philomath Frolic & Rodeo**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 8:00am Men’s Breakfast
3 8:30 Healing Service 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service with Communion	4 8:15 TOPS	5 12:00 Rotary Board Meeting	6 7:30 Eat, Chat, Pray 2:30 Dementia Warriors	7 7:00 Men @ Imagine 10:00 Ladies Guild Meeting	8	9
10 <i>Mother’s Day</i> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service (Mite Box Sunday) Hazen’s Baptism	11 8:15 TOPS 10:00 Pieces by Peace (Jani’s House)	12	13 7:30 Eat, Chat, Pray 1:30 Dementia Warriors Leaders Meeting 4:00 Elders Meeting	14 7:00 Men @ Imagine	15	16
17 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service with Communion	18 8:15 TOPS	19 12:00 Rotary Meeting 7:00 Church Council Meeting	20 7:30 Eat, Chat, Pray 2:30 Dementia Warriors	21 7:00 Men @ Imagine 12:00 Chamber of Commerce Luncheon	22 Piano Recital (Josh Mitchell) – Time will be in the evening, but is not confirmed yet	23
24 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service - Confirmation	25 <b>Memorial Day</b> 8:15 TOPS	26	27 7:30 Eat, Chat, Pray	28 7:00 Men @ Imagine 11:00 PCS Board Meeting	29	30
31 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service						