

Passing the Peace

May 2012



Peace Lutheran Church

Pastor Wayne's Corner

Dear Friends,

In the play, *The Lion in Winter*, Eleanor of Aquitaine, wife of King Henry II of England, says, *In a world where carpenters get resurrected, everything is possible.*

I have not always been an optimist. Prior to coming to faith, I would have cast myself as an absolute pessimist. Edward Murphy may have "invented" Murphy's Law: *If anything can go wrong, it will*, but I lived his law. It was not that everything did go wrong in my life; only that enough things had gone terribly wrong, so that I was afraid that everything might go wrong. Waiting for the next shoe to drop, or the next catastrophe to occur, I found it to be a terribly painful way to live.

Then, for the first time in my life, I truly heard that God had sent his Son in love for the world **and for me**. His love was so broad and so deep that he had died **for me** and the world. That was a fantastic message that captured me, but it was not the end of the message. God was unwilling to allow the forces of evil and death to have the last word and so raised Jesus to life. Love is stronger than hatred; love is stronger than death. Suddenly, I was living in a new world – the grimness, the heaviness was replaced with joy and vibrant color. Living in such a world, I changed. (A couple of preschool parents have told me that on the drive to the preschool they and their children try to guess the color of the shirt that I will be wearing that day.) Joy, life and hope must be expressed.

In a world where carpenters get resurrected, everything is possible.

Hopefully, I do not go through the world wearing rose-colored glasses, seeing a world that does not exist, except in my own imagination. I know, believe me I know, what evil lurks in the hearts of men and women and what awful things can and do occur in this world. But I also "know" that somehow "he's got the whole world in his hands." And I have trust and confidence in those hands, even in the midst of disasters.

In a world where carpenters get resurrected, everything is possible.

Once again, it is the season of Easter in the church calendar. I believe, however, that it is the Easter season every day. Even Good Friday is now colored and covered by Easter. So I will not live downcast; I will live joyfully, expectantly – for *in a world where carpenters get resurrected, everything is possible.*

May you also know such joy, life and hope,

Pastor Wayne

Mission Investment Fund Considers Refinancing Church And Preschool Mortgage Into One

The Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was expected to make a decision April 26 on Peace's request to combine the individual church and preschool mortgages into one new mortgage. By so doing, the combined mortgage payments could be reduced by as much as \$40,000 per year.

The church and the preschool would continue to each pay their portion of the new mortgage.



A Message from Intern Carmen

My last Sunday at Peace Lutheran is the last Sunday of April. I will move back to Berkeley for my last few months of internship and my last semester at seminary. Packing and moving again!

Lately, I have been thinking that since I came to this country, four years and few months ago, I have been living in seven different places. When I was at my country, I lived for 22 years at the same place and after that, I lived 6 years in another place. Moving to a new place, it didn't happen in my lifetime often, back then. My life at the US has been a totally different story. After 7 times living in different places, including different cities (Berkeley and San

Francisco) and right now, two different states (California and Texas). At this time, I see this moving back and forth a good way to meet new places, new people, new culture, new traditions, new language expressions, and other new things for me. I felt that my world view was so small before.

I have to confess that when I moved to Berkeley, it wasn't comfortable. I was living, working, and studying for almost two years at San Francisco. I already knew a good piece of the city. Even though, moving to Berkeley, made my life easier as a seminarian. My move to Berkeley marks the beginning of a new set of positive and challenging experiences for me.

El Paso gave the chance to open my personal view more than before. It's a borderland culture. I met amazing people around here, people that dedicate their lives for others, people who are concerned about the well being of El Paso's community and act on the community's behalf, people who volunteers their time for serving others, and the list goes on and on. All people I met have been teaching and shaping me little by little. God has been teaching me through people's lives.

In any place I go, God is always with me. However, my life hasn't been easy in this country but any moment, God has been alongside me during my life journey. God blessed my



life day by day. God is always blessing me in many ways.

At the end of my internship, I would like to say that El Paso has been a wonderful place to learn about ministry. I'm thankful with all of you for making these 8 months a pleasant time for me. Thanks for your kind support and for every detail, you've done for me.

God is with you every day!
Carmen Miranda

Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly Elects New Bishop To Six-Year Term

Meeting in Colorado Springs April 26-28, the Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) elected Jim Gonia its new bishop on the fifth ballot. Pastor Gonia led on every ballot. Pastor Steve Loy of Las Cruces was eliminated on the fourth ballot by one vote.

The Assembly wished Bishop Allan Bjornberg and his wife Vianne farewell and Godspeed, though his term will not end until August 31.

It was the privilege of John Matyi, Julie Penley and Pastor Wayne to represent Peace as its voting members at this memorable and very moving Assembly.



Julie Penley Elected To Synod Council

At the Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly, Julie Penley, member of Peace, was elected to a four-year term as a member of the Synod Council.

Congratulations, Julie! Our prayers will surround you in your new position!!

Preschool Kindergarten Graduation And Spring Program Will Be June 1

Peace Lutheran Preschool and Daycare will hold Kindergarten Graduation and its Spring Program on Friday, June 1 at 7:00 PM at the Stewart Family Center of Western Hills United Methodist Church, 524 Thunderbird Drive. The graduating kindergartners are: Alexa Mach; Angelina Marranzini; Joey Mazzoncini; Hannah Ortiz; Agustin Quijano; Lorelai Sassenfeld; Sarah Sassenfeld; and Daniel Wojciehowski.



Congratulations!!

Brunch for Joanne

The women of Peace will be hosting a farewell brunch for Joanne on Saturday, May 19 at Ardovino's Desert Crossing, 10:00 am. All women are cordially invited to attend. RSVP's to the church office must be made by May 14th. Come and join us in the celebration with Joanne of her retirement and of the 14 years we spent with her.

* * * * *

* **Ladies Nite Out** *

* May 3 at 5:30 pm, *

* ladies and friends of *

* Peace will meet at *

* Cuartito Azul, 500 *

* Thorn Ave. This is a *

* very small Argentina *

* restaurant at the *

* corner of Thorn and *

* Southwestern Dr. *

* Parking is limited so *

* please carpool. We *

* look forward to *

* seeing you! *

* * * * *



Dr. Paul Casner Awarded The Full Circle of Care Award

The Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) selected three community partners to recognize during their 2012 Nurses' Day Celebration and Awards Luncheon. The Full Circle of Care Award will be presented to recognize the expertise, professionalism, value and generosity of those partnerships. One of those awards will be given to Dr. Paul R. Casner for his work as VNA's Hospice Medical Director. "He exemplifies what a medical professional is" stated one of his colleagues, "He speaks to the elderly with so much respect and his passion for what he does is contagious."

"In the time that I have known Dr. Casner, I am very impressed with his understanding of the disease process and his ability to recall even the most minute details of a patient and/or circumstance that lets me know that he is truly involved with his patients." Dr. Casner is a vital part of our care and quality care to our patients facing end-of-life issues and a tremendous asset to VNA.

Congratulations from your friends at Peace.

Save The Date: June 10 Final Sunday Of Pastor Wayne's Ministry At Peace

Peace will be celebrating with Pastor Wayne and Joanne their retirement on June 10th.

There is a special schedule for this Sunday:

10:30 am—Worship Service

Noon - Potluck lunch

1:00 pm— A Celebration and Roasting of the 14 Years of Peace's and Pastor Wayne's Ministry.

Please place this date and special time on your calendar.

Photos Needed

If you have any photos that you would like to share in a pictorial video for Pastor Wayne's retirement celebration, please email them (peace1699@att.net) or drop pictures off to the church office by May 7th.

Confirmation Student News

Final Confirmation Retreat Is Scheduled For May 5

The fourth and final confirmation retreat of the City-wide Confirmation Program will be held on Saturday, May 5, from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM at St. Timothy Lutheran Church. Students should be at the church by 8:15 AM to car pool to St. Timothy.

Confirmation Will Be Held On Sunday, May 20, 9 AM

The 2012 Confirmation Service will be held during morning worship on Sunday, May 20. Youth who will be confirmed are: Christopher Aguirre, Larue Duckett, Austin Ferguson, and Emily Lenhart.

Please keep these confirmations in your prayers.

Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center Extends Invitation To Its 25th Anniversary

Las Americas will have a 25th Anniversary and Mortgage Pay-Off Party on Friday, May 11 from 5-8 PM at 1500 E. Yandell Drive. Light refreshments will be served and various beverages will be for sale.

Las Americas is a 25 year-old, homegrown, non-profit

dedicated to serving the legal needs of low income immigrants, including refugees and battered women.

Las Americas lawyers and staff are committed to providing high quality legal representation to those who otherwise would not be able to afford it.

Las Americas believes that the American Dream should not be for sale but should be accessible to all deserving people, regardless of their countries of origin and their financial situation.

Since 1987, Las Americas, which is certified by the Board

of Immigration Appeals, has provided representation to more than 9,000 low-income immigrants in El Paso.

Ali Boyd, Border Servant Corps, is a legal assistant at Las Americas.



Preschool Staff Appreciation Week Is May 7 - 11

Peace Lutheran Church will express its thanks to the staff of Peace Lutheran Preschool and Daycare during the week of May 7-11. Each day, items of food or a gift will be given.

We celebrate the wonderful staff that makes Peace Lutheran Preschool and Daycare one of the finest, if not the finest, in El Paso!

Water in the Wilderness, Rivers in the Desert

(Editor's Note: The theme of this year's Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly is Landscapes of Faith. Various people were asked to write a blog, describing what the Landscape of Faith is in their particular locale. Below is the blog that Pastor Wayne wrote. The blog in its entirety may be read at: <http://landscapesof-faith.blogspot.com/>)

Peace Lutheran Church sits on a very unique landscape. From my office in El Paso, TX, I can see the mesas of New Mexico and the mountains of Mexico. The "border" is close enough (8 miles) and the "fence" is tall enough that I can see that fence climbing the mesas and dividing me from those mountains and from my neighbors in Juarez. The border is a landscape all unto it-

self.

The beauty of this landscape is marred not just by the fence, but also by poverty. Imagine a person walking into my office and asking for drinking water. I could respond, as would be normal in most places, by offering a bottle of water, ala Matthew 10:42. But here, such a request is just as likely to be a request for potable water, something taken for granted in most places. More troubling, such a request comes not from the landscape across the border, but from the landscape of the United States; in fact, just 5 or 6 miles as the crow flies from my office. Even more troubling, that request has gone unanswered and ignored by the very governmental jurisdictions established to provide so basic a service. This landscape can

be very hard and harsh at times.

Such a landscape challenges the Church to discover different ways of doing ministry. Here, charity is not enough, if it is sufficient in any place. Here the struggle for justice cannot be ignored. Here the poor cry out for good news.

One church cannot change such a landscape. But a coalition of churches and other institutions can and are. Through one, Border Interfaith, water and justice are given, to give drink to all without exception; so that God's praise is declared.

For I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people.

Isaiah 43:20b-c

State Board Proposes Former Pastor Dan Benuska's License As A Professional Licensed Counselor Be Revoked

The Texas Department of State Health Services, through the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors, issued a recommendation in a hearing on April 19 to revoke the license of Dan Benuska as a Professional Licensed Counselor. He has the right to appeal that recommendation. The appeal process can take up to a year in order to reach a final conclusion and during that time the licensee has the right to practice without any restrictions.

West Africa Sahel Drought Relief

The West Africa Sahel region is currently in the midst of a growing food crisis. As many as 15.5 million people are now feeling its affects, with many in need of emergency food and nutrition assistance. This region is already at risk with excessive levels of acute malnutrition; each year, hundreds of thousands of children under five require treatment and care for

malnutrition.

Along with the severe drought, conflict in northern Mali has sparked a migration of people to neighboring countries. If the current crisis is not addressed soon, it has the potential of transitioning into a widespread famine with millions at risk. The governments of affected countries have declared a state of emergency and are

calling on the international community for aid.

Relief efforts by the ELCA Disaster Response are currently underway in Mali, Mauritania and Senegal. Through partners and companions, the ELCA is participating in efforts to provide food, blankets, hygiene kits, clothing and medical supplies for the most affected indi-



viduals. We are also working to meet the needs of incoming Malian refugees in southern Mauritania as well as train affected communities in disaster risk reduction and prevention methods.



Project ARRIBA's 23rd Graduating Class To Graduate On Wednesday, May 16

Project ARRIBA, the award-winning workforce development project, will hold its graduation ceremony for its 23rd graduation class on Wednesday, May 16. The 6:00 PM graduation will be preceded by a 5:00 PM reception in the auditorium of the ASC Building of the El Paso Community College, 9050 Viscount. The keynote speaker is City Representative Ann Morgan Lilly.

Project ARRIBA is a line item in Peace's budget and Pastor Wayne is the Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors.

To the Peace Lutheran Community--

Many people at Peace have helped out with the After School Program, either now or in the past. This help has been invaluable to the children and to the continuation of the program. I would like to thank everyone at Peace for all of the support that they have given to Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey. You are truly our partners in faith, and you help us extend our ministry to the Central El Paso community.

As summer approaches, I have begun planning for the Summer Program, which serves 40 children from the neighborhood around Cristo Rey. The Summer Program seeks to provide the children with opportunities to stay academically engaged throughout the summer, eat healthy meals and stay

physically active, and grow personally, socially and spiritually in a safe, loving, God-filled environment. Through the Summer Program, kids have the opportunity to go on educational field trips, play group games and sports, experience Vacation Bible School, do some extra reading during the summer and go to the pool!

In order to provide all of these things to so many kids, it is my job to find a sponsor for every child that participates. A sponsor pays the \$70 needed for one child to participate in all of the activities and receive lunch and snack. In return, the sponsor will receive a letter from the child that they sponsored and a video at the end of the summer that recaps the

summer's activities. In addition, since Peace is in El Paso, you should feel free to come visit your child during the Summer Program.

If you would like to sponsor a child, send a check for \$70 to Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey, ATTN: La Mansión Summer Program, 1010 E. Yandell Dr. El Paso, TX 79902 with your name, phone number and address. If you have questions, or if sponsoring a child is not viable but you would like to help out in other ways, please contact me at 915-544-6545 or through email at lamansioncristorey@gmail.com.

Thank you so much for your continuing love and support.

In my Father's house are many mansions: If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. – John 14:2



Amelia Furrow



***Devil In The Grove* – A Book Review By *Wayne Kendrick* Thurgood Marshall, the Groveland Boys, and the Dawn of a New America**

Growing up in South Dakota amidst the general racism against Native Americans, I have always been interested in the history of this country and the fundamental nature of the racism that is central to that history. *In Devil in the Grove*, Gilbert King focuses on the Groveland Boys, four young blacks who were falsely accused of rape in 1949, as a defining case in the career of Thurgood Marshall. This case came before he brought the landmark suit *Brown v. Board of Education*, but was central in the struggle for justice amidst the structures of Jim Crow laws that enforced racial segregation. As a pastor, I am interested in what role the Church played in this period of history that was my early child-

hood.

The book is not an easy read, as it details horrendous evil that was sanctioned by law and law enforcement. One of the most wrenching sections of the book is when King describes Marshall's reaction to the lynching picture of Rubin Stacy. *"Of all the lynching photos Marshall had seen, though, it was the image of Rubin Stacy strung up by his neck on a Florida pine tree that haunted him most when he traveled at night into the South. It wasn't the indentation of the rope that had cut into the flesh below the dead man's chin, or even the bullet holes riddling his body, that caused Marshall, now drenched in sweat, to stir in his sleep. It was the virtually an-*

gelic faces of the white children, all of them dressed in their Sunday clothes, as they posed, grinning and smiling, in a semicircle around Rubin Stacy's dangling corpse. In that horrid indifference to human suffering lay the legacy of yet another generation of white children, who, in turn, would without conscience prolong the agony of an entire other race."

Marshall, the grandson of a mixed-race slave, is certainly one of the legal giants of the twentieth century. If you are interested in coming to grips with a period of American history that defines the search for justice and the social transformation that justice wrought, this is a book to read.

May 19 Is Movie Night "Honor Begins At Home"

May's Movie Night will be held on Saturday, May 19 at 6:00 PM. Four men, one calling to serve and protect. As law enforcement officers they are confident and focused. When tragedy strikes home, these men are left wrestling with their hopes, their fears, their faith and their fathering. Will they be the kinds of dads that make a lifelong impact on their children?



Peace Preschool Will Be Early Mobile Voting Site 8:30 AM-Noon On Saturday, May 19

Peace Preschool will again be an early mobile voting site on May 19 for the Primary Elections. These mobile sites move around the City. This particular site will be open from 8:30 AM-noon.

Any registered voter may vote in the primary election at Peace Preschool that morning. Please vote and make your voice heard!

Peace Lutheran Preschool and Daycare

MAY

- 11 - Happy Mother's Day to all our mom's!
- 28 - MEMORIAL DAY - WE ARE CLOSED !

JUNE

- 1 - End-of-year & Kindergarten Graduation Program (Friday—7:00 P.M.) - see details below...
- 6 - Last day of classes (Friday)
- 7 & 8 - DAYCARE ONLY - YOU MUST SIGN UP BY May 30th!
- 11 - Summer Programs begin - Register with the purple forms at the office.

Can you believe the school year is almost over?!? How the time has flown! We hope you have enjoyed your year at Peace as much as we have (and still are) enjoying your children!

May 7th - 11th is Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week. A great big **THANK YOU** goes out to all of our Peace Lutheran Preschool and Daycare staff. We love and appreciate you **EVERY** day of the year!

Our **Spring Program/Graduation** is in the rehearsal stages. Our program will be held on **FRIDAY, June 1st, again at Western Hills United Methodist Church's Family Life Center, at 7:00 p.m.** It will include preschool, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes (Ms. Erika's/Ms. Lola's, Ms. Bertha's/Ms. Maria's, Ms. Jessica's/ Ms. Minnie's, Ms. Carly's/Ms. Sandra's, Ms. Angelique's/Ms. Tina's, Ms. Carrie's/Ms. Irma's, and Ms. Suki's). All families are welcome to attend; there is no charge, and refreshments will be served following the program. This program will **NOT** be professionally recorded on DVD. Participating children will be asked to arrive no later than 6:45 p.m. so that we can begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. Children should wear "Sunday dress" (in other words - no jeans).

Wednesday, June 6th, will be our last day of classes for the school year. Watch for class party information (some may be quite early). All children, regardless of regular attendance days, will be invited to the class party.

Summer and Fall Registration continues... *If your child will be attending this summer, we need to know (the sooner the better - so we can plan staff and supplies)!* If you have not already registered, there is a purple form in the lobby... Summer session begins on Monday, June 11, 2012 (Daycare by sign-up only from June 7 & 8). We will have VBS during the week of July 23 - 27, from 8:30 - 11:30 at a reduced price of \$30.00 for the week. The fall school year will begin Monday, August 27th. Information and forms for those already registered for both summer and fall will be sent out soon. We will have kindergarten at Peace next year (currently with a full class!). Please let us know if you are still interested (ask at the office for more information)!

TOY reminder: Please do NOT bring your personal toys to school (that includes electronic games)! The tears and issues surrounding their use and protection are immense!

Fundraiser collections continue... Capri Sun will now accept ANY brand of the juice pouches (not boxes). Please rinse as best you can before you bring them into the office. Keep collecting the Price's caps, **BUT NOT** Box-tops for Education! Don't forget to use your Albertson's Community Partners card (stop by the office to get one if you don't have one)! We still have lots of t-shirts available (\$10)! They are in the office, ready to wear.

SUNSCREEN season is here! Please put sunscreen on your child in the morning **BEFORE** you arrive. If your child stays long enough to play in the afternoon, you are welcome to send sunscreen in for our staff to apply in the afternoon (Labeled, please!).

SHOE reminder... flip-flops are NOT appropriate for school - they are especially dangerous on the playground! **Crocs** are difficult to keep on running children's feet, often causing a child to fall. **All shoes must have either a closed heel or a strap around the back of the foot.** Please help us keep our children safe!



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PRESCHOOL NEWS

Sent in Christian Love



- *God's Gift. Our Work.*

Praise	and	Pray
Encourage	and	Educate
Accept	and	Advocate
Commit	and	Celebrate
<i>Energize</i>	<i>your</i>	<i>life</i>

